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Jas Byron Senior
1856.



TRIBUTE
OF
PARENTAL AFFECTION
TO THE MEMORY
OF A
BELOVED AND ONLY
DAUGHTER.

CONTAINING SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
CHARACTER AND DEATH
OF
HANNAH JERRAM;

Who died May 9th, 1823 : Aged 23.

Drawn up by her Father,
CHARLES JERRAM, VICAR of CHOBHAM,
SURREY.

London :

Published by G. WILSON, Essex Street, Strand;
and sold by
J. HATCHARD, Piccadilly ; and L. B. SEELY, Fleet Street.
1823.



"The voice said, cry. And he said, What shall I cry?
All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the
flower of the field. The grass withereth; the flower fadeth,
because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: but the
word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah xl. 6—8.

With peaceful mind, thy path of duty run;
God nothing does, nor suffers to be done,
But what thou would'st thyself, could'st thou but see
Through all events of things as well as he.

A
T R I B U T E
OF
PARENTAL AFFECTION.

SEVERAL motives induce me to draw up a short memoir of my deceased daughter. The first is, an unwillingness that her much-loved image, now fresh and vivid on my mind should fade away. We are told, as a solace of our grief, that time will remove the sorrowful impressions which her death has occasioned ; and that other events and things will take place of those, which now almost exclusively occupy our heart and affections. This, I dare say, will be the case ; and it is right that it should ; otherwise the business of life would stand still ; and the strength and spirits, which should be employed in discharging the duties of life, would be exhausted in mournful recollections and unavailing regrets. But there is an evil on the other hand. The

affliction is calculated and intended to do good : and the benefit of it may be lost by a premature forgetfulness. Bereavements like these soften the heart, and fit us for sympathy : they unmask a vain world, and stamp an infinite value on religion : they set us on the pursuit of substantial good, and quicken our zeal : they detach us from the creature, endear the Saviour, sweeten the promises, and animate our graces ; and by placing us on the verge of both worlds, exhibit the transcendent importance of that which is to come, and stimulate us to a daily preparation for its society and enjoyments. Some of our best lessons therefore are taught us in this school ; and it is wise rather to seek proficiency in it, than to be in haste to get out of it. Now, in this case, it fortunately happens, that our wishes coincide with our interest. We have no desire to dry up our tears. The tendency is to the opposite extreme. The mind lingers on the beloved object which occasions the sorrow, and refuses to be torn from it. There seems to be a sort of cruelty in the very thought of forgetting it, and the

whole tide of feeling propels us in one direction. There is danger, it is true, lest the mind should be so absorbed in the bereavement as to see nothing in the hand which occasioned it, but unkindness, and to refuse the instruction which it was intended to impart: but a Christian will be on his guard against this. He will resolve what he cannot understand into the inscrutable counsels of Him, who is as benignant in his purposes, as he is wise in the means by which he effects them; and he will never rest till he is persuaded that, though "clouds and darkness are round about him, yet righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne." And I desire here to record my full and entire acquiescence in this afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence. The trial was indeed as unexpected as it is great. It has wounded us in the most vital part, and at a stroke has cut the principal cord which bound us down to earth; neither my dear wife nor myself, at present, see how the loss is to be repaired, nor the sad vacancy to be supplied; and in the bitterness of our grief

we are sometimes inclined to say, "We will go down to the grave to our daughter mourning," as the afflicted Patriarch said on the supposed death of his beloved Joseph: but this is only in the agony of our minds, and the paroxysm of sorrow: our general feeling is, I trust, of a different nature. We dare not complain; nor have we been suffered to "charge God foolishly." "All, we feel persuaded, is well," tho' we do not at present see the event in its full and important bearings; and we say, I hope from the heart, "The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord."

Another of the causes which have induced me to offer this "Tribute of Affection to the memory of a beloved daughter" is, the natural desire we all have to perpetuate the memory of those who are dear to us. It is to this feeling that we must chiefly ascribe what antiquity has handed down to us that is excellent in poetry, in statuary, and in painting. Hence have arisen the marble tablets, and sumptuous monuments of modern times;

and so strong and universal is this natural impulse, that even the poor will abridge themselves of the necessities of life to raise a frail memorial, and to inscribe it with the name, and to adorn it with an eulogy of those who were dear to them: each, in his own way, and according to the best of his ability, is desirous of raising a monument to rescue from oblivion the memory of those whom he loved and esteemed. Let me not then be thought singular, if I devote a portion of the talent which God has given me, in recording the excellent qualities of an only daughter. If I possess at all the ability to write her memorial, it would seem a want of feeling to refuse the slender boon: and tho', had the intimation of such an intention been given her at any period of her life, she would have been most reluctant to accept the offer, and would have expressed her surprise that it could enter the mind of her father to speak of qualities in her, which she never supposed to exist; yet this is no reason why the memorial of them should be withheld; it rather furnishes one of the strongest motives for re-

ording them; for if so many excellencies were actually possessed by an individual, who was unconscious of possessing any of them, we have the most satisfactory evidence of her deep humility; and in this, as in all other cases, it is found that "before honour is humility," and that "he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Beside these motives for my undertaking, I may add, that so deeply has my heart been affected by this dispensation of Providence, that I have been hitherto unable to turn my thoughts into any other channel. Be where I may, or occupied in whatever business, the thought that—my daughter is gone! frequently rushes on my mind with such an overwhelming violence, as to carry me entirely away; and it is only when I can contemplate the event in its different bearings, and trace it to the unerring direction of infinite wisdom and goodness, that I am able to obtain any repose. The subject then being ever uppermost in my mind, and being continually viewed in the light of God's word, and in reference to the future world, it is not sur-

prising that I have been brought to think that some remarks engrafted on my review of her life, and the circumstances of her death, may be useful to others ; and as I happen now to have somewhat more leisure for such an undertaking than I have usually enjoyed, I humbly hope that I may indulge my inclination, and employ my time with some profit to others ; and I have had an especial eye in this narration to her surviving brothers, to her affectionate friends, and to parents and children in general.

I am greatly desirous that her beloved brothers should always have within reach, one of the strongest and purest incentives of their affections ; and the benefit of an example, which cannot fail to interest them, from their love of the original. Often have their parents enjoyed an intense pleasure in observing the harmony and blending of heart and interest of their children. It promised a harvest of the choicest blessings : it seemed to secure each from any substantial deviation from the paths of piety, seeing that none of them could do so, without rending the hearts

of others, who were equally dear with themselves. A sister can, in no circumstances, be an object of indifference; but an *only* sister, and one of the age, the attainments, the moral and christian qualities, and the sweetness of disposition of my beloved daughter, must necessarily exercise over the minds of her younger brothers a powerful and assimilating influence. The cord however which united them is now cut asunder. They cease to walk together as the children of the same happy family. The centre which, perhaps, most powerfully attracted them to home is removed; the bosom, to which they confided their hopes and desires no longer responds to their joys or their fears; the voice which so often cheered them in their little difficulties is silent in death, and the eye which glistened with delight when their prospects brightened is closed for ever. Their loss is indeed great; and it is my wish to diminish it as far as I can, by supplying them with a faithful likeness of one, whom they so tenderly loved, and justly admired.

But my beloved daughter had a choice selection of friends, with whom she kept up an affectionate intercourse by visits or by letter. These loved and admired her while living; and sorrowed, with no slight emotions, at her death. For these amiable characters, I feel the most affectionate regard; and I trust they will consider it as a proof of my esteem, that I have had them in view in narrating the affecting circumstances of the last four or five days of my dear Hannah's life. I am fully aware that the recital will greatly affect their susceptible minds: and some may think that a veil should have been drawn over the most agonizing part of the scene. I cannot, however, persuade myself to do this; for tho' it would have been more consonant with a parent's wishes to have witnessed nothing but peace in her last hours, and triumph in the mortal conflict, and to have seen her "return and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy;" yet as I could not choose the circumstances of her death, I feel it a duty to record what actually took place, and to submit the facts of the

case to serious reflection : nor am I sure that the case of the humble believer, clinging to the cross of Christ as her last and only refuge, attended with much fear lest she should be rejected, is not as instructive, as that of the Christian entering into the harbour in full sail. The individual is as *safe* in one case as the other ; and, all things considered, I am inclined to think that the former is that which may more naturally be expected in a young Christian, and which does, in point of fact, more frequently occur. If however this narration should awaken in my young friends a more anxious solicitude about the most momentous concerns, and put them in the posture of expectation to meet “ the king of terrors ;” if it should lead them to a closer examination of their principles, temper and conduct ; if it should bring them to a more intimate and familiar acquaintance with the blessed Saviour, and the “ precious promises ” of the gospel, and cause them to take a nearer view of the world to come, and thus weaken their attachment to earthly objects, and increase their desires after holiness, as

the only means of obtaining happiness; they may hope to enter into "the valley of the shadow of death" with less alarm than my beloved daughter did; and to contemplate the scene before them with more serenity and composure.

I am induced also to hope that the subject I have in hand may suggest some useful reflections to parents in general. None of these will read this narrative without interest. They will each imagine themselves placed in similar circumstances with myself, and will be desirous of having similar consolations, should they have to undergo the same trial. The brief observations I shall make on the bringing up of my daughter may, I humbly trust, furnish some direction to those who have had less experience than myself in the education of youth; and I shall reap no small reward from this "Tribute of Affection to the memory of an only and beloved Daughter," if a single parent be assisted in "bringing up his child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Keeping these important objects ever before me, I will betake

myself to the mournful, yet pleasing task, of reviewing the life and last hours of my dear child; and I earnestly pray that my heart may be influenced and my pen guided by Him, who has visited me with this affliction, not only for my own benefit, but to promote his own glory, and the good of others.

As it forms no part of my plan to detail the minute particulars of my beloved daughter's life, I shall pass over many of her years with but few observations, and fix only on the more important stages of her short journey.

It is unnecessary to say that the birth of this our first child, which took place at Long Sutton, in the county of Lincoln, on the 4th of April, 1800, was to her parents an interesting event. And as it was our earnest desire to bring her up in the fear of God, as the only way to make her happy in herself, and a comfort to us, we determined to spare no pains in her education, and to commence our work, at the earliest opportunity. It appeared to us preposterous to suffer the sin-

ful tendencies of nature to gain strength, and grow into habits, under the notion that, when the mind has acquired maturity, it will assert its dominion over the passions, and reduce every thing into its proper place and order. We knew that reflection and reason come late into exercise; that they are slow in their progress; act only at intervals; are feeble in operation; and uncertain in result: whilst, on the contrary, passion is coeval with our existence; is incessant in action; and impatient of controul. We were aware also that, if we neglected to sow wheat upon the fresh soil, the enemy would not be equally remiss in scattering tares; we were determined therefore, if possible, to pre-occupy the ground by the best seed. Nor were our early efforts disappointed. We had the satisfaction of seeing our beloved child growing up under the best promise, and every year affording us abundant reason to believe that our labour was not spent in vain. The only time, as far as I recollect, when I had occasion to use any thing like severity, was when she was in her second year; and I record the

circumstances of it, as exemplifying my views of an important preliminary step in the training of children. We had a family party. Her grandfather and grandmother, her uncles and aunt, were dining with us; and our little Hannah was permitted to be seated at the table. On something being presented to her by one of her relatives, she was desired to say "Thank you," a sentence which she had but recently learned to pronounce; but upon this occasion, she was too eager to enjoy the kindness, to acknowledge her obligation to the hand from which she received it. I repeated the injunction, but without the desired effect. The affair then assumed another aspect, and an important *principle* was in agitation. Excuses were offered by her fond relatives, and the tears of the child appealed to my feelings; but I considered that a compromise in this case involved future consequences, and that the point between us must sooner or later be decided. I knew that the victory of the child would lead to fresh attempts upon her yielding parents; and thus I should hereafter, with a much greater expense

of feeling, and to a greater disadvantage, have to renew the contest. I therefore took the child into another room, and desired her to say "Thank you," which she did immediately. I supposed from this that the conquest was complete; but to my surprise, on returning to the dining room, she had lost the power of uttering this short sentence. I had again to retire with her, and administer a slight correction for the disobedience; and again, when alone with me, she repeated the difficult words; but being a second time placed at the table, the task became insuperable, and she said, "I can't say so." Her relatives too, whose feelings overcame, on this occasion, their good sense, joined in thinking the child could not repeat the words; and some of them united their tears with the child's in urging me to proceed no further. The duty now became difficult. The yearnings of my own heart, the entreaties of those around me, and the sobs of the sweet child, were all on one side; and only a sense of duty on the other. I stifled however my feelings, and again retired. I had no doubt

of the ability of the child to pronounce the words, because she had done so, every time of my withdrawing with her, and I was determined to go through with my task. After four or five attempts, I at length succeeded, and with a throbbing heart and flowing tears, the little creature sobbed out, "Tank - - - you." Every thing now was properly settled. The victory was on the side of the parent, who knew how to make a proper use of it, instead of the daughter, who would have abused it: the tears were soon dried up: our friends were satisfied that all was right: and the dear child never made another attempt with papa for the mastery. I dwell on this little incident with some minuteness, because it was pregnant with important results. It was a contest for governing principles: it decided at once that the will of the child must submit to that of the parent; and that it is in vain to expect happiness in the way of resistance to proper authority. It is true the child did not *reason* in this way; but she well understood the *practical lesson*; and she never after brought *her* will to the hazard of

the child in her presence, should be imposed. A prudent mother will know how to take advantage of the first tendencies of her child ; and it is of importance that she should have the best opportunities of perceiving them, which she could not possess, if, from motives of fear, her child should be generally under restraint. Nor is this the principal evil which would arise from an undue awe and reverence towards the mother. It would engender a timid and servile disposition ; or else, an habitual effort to conceal what is passing in the mind ; and thus lead to deceit and hypocrisy, and the destruction of mutual confidence and harmony. Whilst, on the other hand, if the necessarily greater distance between the father and the child, arising either from his having no concern with the little affairs which bring the mother and child into close contact, and produce reciprocal endearments, or from the fewer opportunities of intercourse, or from the less pliancy of his nature, should occasion somewhat of excess in reverence towards him, no great harm is likely to ensue. The former will afford abun-

dant scope for the goings forth of the heart of the child, and the latter will check any tendency to an extreme. Thus, while the one cherishes the affections, and the other curbs the will, and whilst both endeavour to approximate towards each other as nearly as circumstances will admit, till their separate influence is so united and blended as to render the limit between them imperceptible, they will form the temper of their child as remote from a timid reserve and artful duplicity on the one hand, as from stubborn self-will and ungovernable passion on the other.

It would be an agreeable task to go back to a variety of little incidents, to which the early part of our beloved child's life gave rise; and consistently with my intention of offering an Affectionate Tribute to the memory of a daughter so dear, I might perhaps be permitted to indulge these fond recollections; but I am not aware that they would lead to any very profitable results, and therefore I think it better to forego them; and briefly to state that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, our endeavours to bring

up our child "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" were abundantly successful. She became all that her fond and anxious parents could wish: and her life exhibited one unbroken series of dutiful affection towards her parents, sisterly love towards her brothers, and reverence to whatever is sacred. From her infancy, she possessed an uncommon share of vivacity, quickness of parts, and sweetness of disposition. She was always open, natural, and unaffected. She delighted in the society of her friends, and invariably met them with the same countenance. Any one, who thought it worth while to have her company, might be sure of meeting her in the best humour, and ready to give up her own inclination for their accommodation and pleasure. It is difficult to conceive of a character more divested than she was of selfishness. Instead of thinking herself worthy of the homage of others, she thought less of herself than they did of her; and so far was she from expecting that her friends should bend to her caprice and humour, she was ready to make no inconsiderable sacrifices to gratify them. So

far did she carry this point, that on several occasions she effectually concealed from the company, whose pleasures she was unwilling to interrupt, the most acute pain ; and when ready to sink with faintness and fatigue, she assumed an air of ease, which prevented the least suspicion that she was not in perfect health. The desire of making others happy was so powerful a stimulus, that it sustained her spirits, when otherwise she would have actually sunk. One or two instances of this, it may not be improper to mention.

About two years ago, she was on a visit to some of her most beloved friends at Southampton. The disease, which probably terminated her life, had already commenced its attack. Her friends could not help seeing at times, by her countenance, that she was far from being in the health they could wish ; and they were extremely anxious on this account ; but they were not aware of the extent of her malady. She afterwards told her mother that frequently she retired into her room, as if for the purpose of dressing, writing letters, or other indifferent affairs, but with the real

intention of rolling on the carpet (for if she had done so on the bed, it would have probably led to enquiries about her health) to obtain a little ease of her acute pain: and when she appeared again in the parlour, she threw herself on the sofa, for the apparent purpose of playing with a favorite little girl upon it, but with the real object of obtaining, if possible, some mitigation of suffering.

Last Midsummer twelvemonth, we made an excursion into Lincolnshire. At the solicitation of our friends, we consented to leave our dear daughter behind us for a few weeks. Various parties of pleasure were formed on her account; and among them, it was proposed to pay a visit to Crowland Abbey, at the distance of about fifteen miles. A large party was originally formed for this purpose, though various circumstances ultimately prevented several from joining it, and much preparation was made for the occasion. She was highly delighted with the plan, and wrote us a most humorous account of the intended procession. The day was fixed, and every thing was arranged; but in the mean time,

she was seized with the complaint to which that part of Lincolnshire is incident, and on the appointed day, she was exceedingly unwell. But the party had been formed entirely on her account, and she knew the disappointment would be great, if she were wanting on the occasion. She had therefore not only to shake off her disease, but to assume an air of health and vivacity, which should leave no suspicion that all was not well; and, as she afterwards told her mother, she forced herself from her bed, when continuing upon it was the only comfort she was capable of enjoying; mixed with her friends in the excursion, and was enabled, though at a most hazardous risk to herself, and a sad waste of strength and spirits, to get through the day, without the company being aware how dearly she paid for the good humour and hilarity, which were kept up on the occasion.

She carried indeed the principle of surrendering her own comforts to those of others so far, that we at length ascertained, when she was more than usually vivacious, she was labouring under some acute pain or uneas-

siness ; for her efforts to conceal it became excessive, and somewhat unnatural. I have learnt that when she had been lying on the sofa under any indisposition, the moment she heard my foot proceeding across the hall, she would start up, assume an air of the greatest cheerfulness, and meet me, as she did at all times, with a smile of affection.

Though we have lately, alas ! had occasion to know that disease had, for a considerable time, been making sad inroads upon her constitution, we could not ascertain this, at any given point of time. We never saw her otherwise than cheerful ; and scarcely ever (I had almost said *never*, for I really do not recollect an instance of it) heard her heave a sigh. It was however too perceptible to us, by her loss of appetite and substance, that she could not be well ; and we extorted from her that she had pains in her breast, in her side, and at the lower part of the spine : and from time to time we consulted our medical friends ; but neither they nor we apprehended any thing of a serious nature, till the disease came on with such violence, as to baffle all

attempts to arrest its course, or subdue its virulence.

As her disposition was cheerful and vivacious, so had she an acute perception of wit and humour. Every thing of this nature, provided it were chaste and free from impiety, afforded her a high gratification, and perhaps she sometimes indulged to an excess in this kind of pleasure. Her own playfulness of mind led her, at times, to make remarks on events and characters, which some of her more serious friends thought approached to levity. This, however, I have entirely from hearsay. In my own presence, her chastised feelings of respect, never suffered her to go beyond the bounds of the strictest propriety. I was always delighted with her shrewd observations on characters, and her good-natured wit on passing events. But it is not at all unlikely that this tendency, when unfettered by the respect which she felt for her parents, and when enjoying the full freedom of social intercourse with her friends, might lead her occasionally into an extreme. But as she was, in a great measure, the life

of the juvenile parties in which she mixed; and never lost a friend, it is fair to conclude that her wit was divested of bitterness, and her humour of unkindness.

Her talents were certainly of the higher order, but they were entirely female. She possessed a quick and retentive memory, so that whatever she read, became her own. She entered with facility into the meaning of an author, and had compass of mind to take in the whole of his plan. Her reading was somewhat extensive and varied. The Greek and Latin Classics, through translations, were familiar to her. She had a general and correct knowledge of history, especially of ancient Greece and Rome, and of her own country. During the last winter, among other books, she read through the ten volumes of Mitford's History of Greece; and she had lately taken particular pains to refresh her memory with the principal facts of general history, for the purpose of early impressing them on the mind of her youngest brother, whom she had hitherto had almost entirely under her own management. I say nothing

of her attainments in the common ornamental accomplishments of well educated females, because they were such as might be expected ; and are, I presume, common, in persons of her station, and with her means of instruction. She was not, however, a proficient in music, though she enjoyed the benefit of the best teachers. Neither her taste, nor her ear led her to take much delight in this science, though her performances were far from being so inferior as her modesty induced her to suppose. She read and spoke French with ease, and was acquainted with several valuable authors in that language. In drawing and needle-work, she has left us many pleasing specimens of her skill ; and we can scarcely fix our eyes upon any spot in our house, in which we do not see affecting proofs of her taste. In botany, she had made some considerable progress, and was intending to pursue the study, this spring and summer, with greater attention than she had hitherto done. She had read several popular treatises on natural philosophy and chemistry ; and was well acquainted with most of the easier re-

sults and experiments of both. When a child, she had learned the Latin grammar, and it was my original intention to give her a classical education ; but finding many inconveniences likely to arise, from keeping her at home, with my scholastic engagements, she was sent very early to school ; and of course, the plan of teaching her Latin and Greek was given up. During the last winter, however, she expressed a wish to resume the study of the classics ; more I conceive from a desire of relieving me from the labour of giving elementary knowledge to her youngest brother, than of becoming a proficient in the languages of Greece and Rome, with the principal authors of which, through translations, I have already observed she was acquainted. We accordingly commenced with the Latin grammar ; and in a few months, she read several lives of Nepos, and a considerable portion of Ovid and Virgil. The facility and correctness with which she wrote Latin exercises ; the readiness with which she applied the rules of syntax, and the dexterity with which she made out the complicated construction of the

Latin language, greatly surprised me; and were such as I had never before witnessed in a long course of educating youth. It will scarcely seem credible, that during the last winter months, up to the end of March, besides perusing many volumes of entertaining authors, drawing several nicely finished pieces, working a tedious veil, carefully reading the ten volumes of Mitford's Greece, superintending the education of her youngest brother, and almost daily visiting the cottages of the distant poor of this parish, she made this proficiency also in the Latin language; and that, with no other assistance from me than a lesson, in the evening, when the greater part of the family had retired to rest.

In speaking of the course of her reading, I ought not, perhaps, to omit that, had her principles allowed it, she would probably have indulged to an excess in those popular works, which have recently engaged the almost exclusive attention of the young. And I mention this, not only that I may give a fair account of my beloved daughter's tendencies; but especially that I may record

her conviction that she had devoted too much of her time to this unprofitable course of reading. It occasioned her great uneasiness, as we shall hereafter see, in reviewing the past, to reflect that so much of her time had been wasted in books of this nature ; and had it pleased our heavenly Father to protract her short span of existence, I am persuaded that they would have engaged a very minute, if *any* portion of her future reading.

Different opinions, I am aware, are entertained by religious persons, as to what extent books of this nature are proper for the young. Some would limit them within a very narrow compass ; and others would exclude them altogether. That many publications have recently issued from the press, which are altogether unfit for the perusal of any one, who has the least regard either to morality or decency, cannot be denied : and every parent, who would not be accessory to the pollution of his child's mind, and the extirpation of every principle of duty to God and man, will most anxiously guard against his coming in contact with such pestilential authors. No

beauty of composition, nor grandeur of imagery, nor sublimity of description can compensate for the violation of modesty, morality and religion : and those pleasures of imagination, which expose to hazard the social affections, domestic peace, and the divine favour, are indulged at an awful risk. To wade through a mass of filth, and to inhale at every breath pestilential vapours, for some ideal gratification, is too degrading a toil for a reasonable being : and one cannot help deploring that any persons, professing a regard for piety and good morals, should subject themselves to so much humiliation, as to suffer their minds to be contaminated with disgusting images, and daring blasphemy, for the purpose of culling from a mass of abominations, a few extraordinary specimens of talent and genius. Nor is this personal risk the only thing to be deprecated. They have given a direct countenance to the authors of this moral pestilence, by putting their works in circulation ; and have stimulated multitudes to expose themselves to the same hazard, by extolling the beauties of insulated

passages, and the splendid ornaments with which they are embellished. It is true, they have censured, with just severity, the licentiousness and blasphemy with which these writers abound ; but it does not require any deep penetration into human nature to know, that the very exposure of certain vices provokes curiosity to ascertain in what they consist ; and it may be justly questioned, whether the beauties they have extolled, or the faults they have reprobated, have operated as the stronger stimulus, to get possession of these works.


There are other modern publications equally popular with those to which I have just alluded, and which are far from being correct either in religion or morals, but which it would be unjust to treat with the same unqualified censure. It cannot be said that they have a manifest tendency to deteriorate mankind. Their authors would disdain to pander to the licentious appetite, or attack the social virtues, or to undermine the religious principle. But yet their chief praise is negative. They do nothing to advance man in the

scale of moral excellence, or to bring him nearer to the source of all perfection. Taking as their standard of character those whom the world applauds, they adapt both their religion and morals to the prevalent taste; and whatever rises above or falls below this level, they equally expose to ridicule or reprobation. Hence, the individual, whose breast glows with the purest love to God, and who is most zealous to promote the honour of the Saviour of man, is in as much danger of being held up by these writers, to the scorn of the world, as that man is, of falling under their censure, who casts off the fear of God, and "tramples under foot, the blood of Christ." It is obvious that authors like these, when their talents are popular, must operate most powerfully against any advancement in moral and religious excellence; nor can it be safe to permit their works to fall within the reach of the domestic circle. Youth need every inducement to engage them heartily in the cause of religion; to rise above the level of ordinary profession, and to quicken their zeal in the service of their

"Lord and Master;" and nothing can be a greater hindrance to their advancement in the divine life, than the sarcasms and ridicule of authors, who are held in general repute, and are in almost every person's hands.

The writings of these persons are not directed to any particular age or class, but are intended generally for the whole reading community. There are, however, numerous other modern authors, who, like them, have entered the field of poetry and fiction, but with an especial reference to the rising generation: and it is thankfully acknowledged that their object is, perhaps, universally, to promote their best interests, by smoothing the rugged path of education, and endeavouring to give a right cast to the youthful character: and if the best intentions could always ensure the best results, they would be entitled to unqualified commendation. But we must look at principles, and follow them through all their operations and consequences; and if these should be pernicious, no uprightness of design ought to prevent our exposing the danger: and of this tendency I conceive are

some of the publications just adverted to. They profess to form the character of the young, entirely by prudent discipline and moral motives, without calling in the least aid from what is peculiar to the Christian system. They have exhibited peculiar talent and felicity in setting forth the deformity and ultimate misery of vice; and the beauty and consequent happiness of an opposite course. They have shewn, with great effect, that nothing is so degrading as the predominance of the selfish principle; and nothing so becoming as an open, benevolent, and generous disposition. The most striking instances are given of the advantages resulting from an inflexible course of integrity; whilst the artful and designing never fail to meet eventually with the contempt and infamy they deserve. The pleasures of a mind at ease with itself are set forth with striking effect; and the corroding remorse of the vicious is painted in strong, but not overcharged colours. The various sources of enjoyment from domestic and social intercourse, rational amusements, the works of nature, the cultivation of the fine arts, from



botany, chemistry, natural philosophy, and every branch of science, are laid open with every attraction, which these copious subjects admit; and the whole is embellished with all the simple and elegant ornaments of which language is capable. The character, formed on this model, is exhibited as at once beautiful and perfect. He fills his station in life, whether as parent or child, relation or friend, the man of business, or holding an honourable profession, the statesman or the soldier, with the most scrupulous and efficient exactness : and all this is accomplished without adopting a single peculiarity of the gospel, or feeling the influence of a single Christian motive. As far as this system is concerned, Christianity may be readily dispensed with. The character would have been just what it is, if the Bible had never been written, and Jesus Christ had never come into the world. Not a word is said of man as a fallen being, wretched, ruined, and helpless : no mention is made of Him, who has “redeemed us to God, by his own blood :” nor of Him, who is the Enlightener, Comforter,

have the highest veneration for the Christian religion, admit these publications into their nurseries ; they put them into the hands of their children, at the different stages of life, as their understandings and capacities are enlarged ; and expect them to learn some of their best lessons, as well as derive their chief entertainment from them.

I admit, indeed, that these Christian parents do not make these books the standard of their own principles, nor intend them to become the sole guide of their children : on the contrary, they teach them Christian doctrines, and inculcate Christian morals, and enforce them by Christian motives : and receive these works merely as subsidiary aids, anxious to obtain assistance from any quarter, to train up their children in a proper manner. I admit also, that it is not only allowable, but also necessary, in the present state of things, to have recourse, in our instruction of youth, to many things, which, with some good, are mixed up with much that is exceptionable. No one can reflect on the character of many of the Greek and Latin

Classics, which are put into the hands of our youth; or the channel through which most of the histories of our own country, and of other nations are derived, without painful feelings: yet there is this difference in the works alluded to. In the latter, we seek the knowledge of languages and of facts. Our studies, in this line, are intended to strengthen and enlarge and discipline the mind; to call forth its powers, to regulate its taste, to form our stile, to provide materials for thought and reason; and the classics are read under the impression that they are the works of men, who never enjoyed the benefit of revelation, and are therefore not intended either to be the models of our practice, or to teach us our duty. But in the former, the object is altogether different. It is their professed intention to form the mind; to furnish it with principles; to supply the proper motives; and to make the perfect character: and this, with all the advantages of having before them a revelation from heaven. They stand then in the character, not of Heathen, but of Christian instructors; and if no portion of what is pecu-

fiar to Christianity finds its way into their lessons, it must arise from their not considering any part of it as essential to their undertaking; and the only possible conclusion is, that in their esteem, the whole Christian system is, if not an absolute incumbrance, yet certainly a redundancy, inasmuch as that every thing important may be accomplished without it. It surely is not necessary to add, that a scheme like this, not only leads to infidelity, but is a direct affront to the Christian religion. It impiously excludes Him from having a place in the system, of which he ought to be the sun: and forbids us to see Him any where, whom we ought to see every where. “ Him first: Him last: Him midst, and without end.”

It is with pleasure I turn from writers of this description to others, who, professing to have the same object in view, and to communicate their instructions by a similar method, take a correct estimate of the subject before them, and aim at its accomplishment by more suitable means. Taking man, as he

really is, degraded, miserable, and ruined; and yet, through the boundless mercy of God, within reach of inconceivable felicity and glory; they commence their work on a right foundation, and never lose sight of his high destiny. They assume the fact of his corruption; and direct their attention to his renovation. Aware that their unassisted efforts would end in disappointment, they seek the aid of the great Restorer, and rest their hopes on his all-sufficient help. It is a main point with them, to bring even "little children to Christ, that he may bless them;" well knowing that if they can enlist them early under the banner of the cross, they will, in all probability, "continue his faithful followers and soldiers unto their lives' end." They dwell largely on the value of the soul; the danger of losing it; and the constant vigilance necessary to secure its welfare. They urge the necessity of a religion, which engages the affections, on the ground that a father can be satisfied with nothing less than the heart; and that no homage of the tongue or prostration of the body can impose upon

Him, whose eye penetrates the secrets of the breast, and before whom, "all things are naked and open." This, and this only, they know will operate as forcibly in solitude and darkness, as in the clear and open face of day; and when tempted to the commission of secret sin, will make them say, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Whilst they avail themselves of every proper motive to excite holy tempers and virtuous conduct, they place their chief dependence on those which are drawn from the cross: and by exhibiting the character of the blessed Redeemer in all its kindness, condescension and mercy, they attach the heart to Him, and render him the supreme object of their affections. In this system, every thing is placed and retained in its proper situation: Christ is made the center of it; and he attracts, and enlightens, and beautifies, and animates, and fructifies every part of it. There is nothing removed from his influence; and every thing acknowledges him, as "Head over all, and blessed for ever." In this way, characters are formed, which confer

blessings on men, and bring glory to God. Let their numbers be increased, and “ the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad for them : and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.” They are “ the salt of the earth ;” and “ the light of the world ;” and bring down upon it, the blessing of heaven.

This system of education, I am happy to observe, has been advocated and supported by numbers of individuals of both sexes, and of the first order of talents : and it affords me a sincere pleasure to have an opportunity of offering my tribute of respect to those numerous females, who have brought their excellent abilities to bear on the best interests of the rising generation. It is impossible to mention the names of More, and Trimmer, and Sherwood, and Taylor and many others, without associating with them a wide diffusion of Christian principles ; a large increase of domestic happiness ; and much of that active zeal which has been recently displayed, and especially by females, in support of the great institutions, which are spreading

throughout the world the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. They have smoothed the rugged course of education by their appropriate and lucid elementary books. They have furnished us with the best materials, embellished with all the ornaments and attractions which the subjects will admit, for storing the memory and forming the character of our youth; and they have illustrated their precepts by such a variety of interesting examples, that they can scarcely fail to make an indelible impression, wherever they are read. It is not easy to conceive any thing more sound in doctrine, more pure in morals, more rich in variety, more perfect in execution, or more beautiful and elegant in form, than the library, with which their united efforts have supplied the younger branches of our families: and I am persuaded that at this moment thousands of parents and children are reaping an abundant harvest from their labours.

After bestowing this justly merited praise; it may appear somewhat ungracious to say any thing, which may seem to detract from

the value of their performances: and yet I have my doubts whether some inconvenience may not arise, both from the continually increasing number of these publications, and the stile and nature of their composition. Scarcely a month passes, without some addition being made to the already abundant stock; and it is easy to perceive that invention is somewhat tortured to find any thing in the shape of novelty. The result is what might be naturally expected. Many of the recent performances are considerably inferior to those which first appeared; the reader feels a diminished interest in what is put into his hands; and there is some danger of the most valuable of these publications thus falling into discredit. But it is from the nature and stile of these compositions that I anticipate the principal mischief. For the sake of illustrating principles, and giving the weight of facts to lessons on virtue and vice, imaginary characters are introduced with great effect; and no doubt make a more lasting impression on the mind and memory, than abstract rules and dry discussions on morals. But there is

some danger even in this. Imaginary characters seldom bear an exact resemblance to real life. They are generally highly wrought, and wound up to a pitch of excellence or depravity, which have rarely any counterpart in fact. Hence, real occurrences make a feebler impression than they would have done, from their falling short of what we had previously read in books : Ordinary virtue passes as of little worth ; and common suffering produces scarcely any sympathy. The feelings, having been frequently and powerfully excited, require a continually increasing stimulus to keep up their tone ; and from the difficulty of obtaining this, the mind at length sinks into listless apathy, from which the customary events of life are incapable of arousing it. A habit also is acquired of overstating facts, in order to excite interest. Perceiving that what appeared important to ourselves, excites but little attention in others, we are tempted to set things out with a false colouring, and give them an appearance, with which the facts themselves have scarcely any correspondence. Every person, who pays a

scrupulous regard to truth, has often been exceedingly distressed at hearing statements, which he is sure are any thing but correct; and it is not unreasonable to suppose that this inattention to strict veracity may be owing, at least in part, to the circumstance on which I am animadverting.

There is also so close an affinity between works of this nature, and the common run of novels, that there is some danger of gliding imperceptibly from one to the other; and thus acquiring a taste for those pernicious publications, which have poisoned the minds, and corrupted the hearts of so many of our youths.

It will not have escaped the notice of many of my readers that, among many professing Christians, a sort of sentimentalism has usurped the place of experimental religion. The sober views and feelings, which the facts of our case, and the nature of the gospel might be supposed to occasion, are superseded by sensations of a more exquisite and inexplicable nature, and by undefined and romantic notions of imaginary excellence

and enjoyments. May not this evil also have some connection with the writings which we are now considering?

On no subject is it more dangerous to let loose the imagination than on religion. Every thing connected with spiritual subjects and the future state, is matter of pure revelation : and we cannot advance a step, with safety, without our guide. Now it seldom happens that he leads us beyond the statement of certain truths, which are necessary for our instruction, or warning, or comfort ; and on which, from the very nature of things, there must rest some degree of obscurity. Our inquisitive minds are not easily reconciled to this limited information, and uncertainty. We wish to pry more minutely into things ; and send imagination into the illimitable field of possibilities, from which it brings back innumerable crude and extravagant notions. It is the business of a sound and chastised judgment to repress these vain excursions, and this pernicious curiosity ; and strictly to confine the thoughts to the prescribed limits of revelation ; and it is

with almost inconceivable difficulty that this controul is effectually exercised. Hence, whatever adds a stimulus to imagination, in matters of religion, does, in fact, counteract the salutary efforts of reason and a sound mind to repress it; and tends to convert the religion of the gospel into the wild reveries of fanaticism. May not then the publications in question have a tendency to foster the imaginative faculty; and to induce a train of evils arising from the predominance of fancy over reason and revelation?

But these reflections have led me into a length of discussion which I did not anticipate, when I commenced them; and it is more than time that I return to the immediate subject of this memoir.

I was led into these remarks by stating that my beloved daughter was inclined to indulge in reading the productions of some of the modern school of poetry and fiction, beyond the limit which she afterwards thought to be safe: but I should do her memory a great injustice, if I were to omit stating, that her principal

reading was of a religious character. The Bible was her constant companion. A considerable part of it was committed to memory; and she could repeat by heart a great part of the Psalms. The marks she has placed against different passages of this blessed book, plainly indicate that her daily perusal of it was not a mere form. Not only did she notice those parts, which were most beautiful for their poetry, and most sublime in description; but more especially such as relate to fundamental doctrines, important duties, and encouraging promises. Whatever set forth the value of the soul; the nature of salvation; the evil of sin; the necessity of holiness; the promise of pardon; and the work of the Holy Spirit; invariably arrested her attention, and received her mark for future meditation: and very few persons, I believe, had a memory better stored with the most beautiful and interesting passages of holy writ.

The book, which she seemed to prize next to the Bible, is Dr. Doddridge's "Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul." This, like her Bible, displays numerous marks of

her minute attention to its directions. Those passages especially, which enforce a close self-examination as to the effects of religion on the affections, temper and predominant habits of life, were constantly before her; and were noted, as requiring the most serious consideration. The effect of this diligence was most visible in her whole deportment. Her naturally somewhat hasty and susceptible mind was, at length, so effectually subdued, that she was seldom off her guard, or hurried into any inadvertent expression. When this was the case, she soon recovered herself, and was deeply grieved at her infirmity. Children, it is well known, are often careless in learning their lessons, and are with difficulty brought to pay attention to their teachers, particularly where paternal authority is not immediately at hand to enforce obedience. Formerly she had shewn considerable uneasiness with her youngest brother on these accounts; but so completely had she gained the ascendancy over this irritability of temper that, during the last twelve months, she never once betrayed any thing

like impatience; but met every discouragement with calmness and composure.

Those passages also in this her favourite devotional author, which relate to the uncertainty of life; the suddenness of death; and the importance of being in constant readiness to meet the "King of terrors," were rendered prominent by double strokes of her pencil. I believe indeed that few days passed without serious thoughts on these most important subjects, for they were ever uppermost in her mind. She always had a peculiar dread of death; and one day said to her mother, after telling her of the confident hopes of a blessed immortality, which one of her most valued female friends had just expressed, "I think I shall all my life long be in bondage through fear of death." Whenever she heard of the happy departure of any eminent Christian, she seemed almost to envy their victory over death, and expressed her fears that this would never be her privilege.

Beside this invaluable treatise of Dr. Doddridge, there were many other books of a devotional kind, which she took delight in

reading. She had a large assortment of psalms and hymns, composed or selected by various authors; and many of the most beautiful in poetry, and excellent in Christian sentiment, she had committed to memory. Here also, as well as in the books just referred to, are found indications of the predominant feelings and state of her mind. Such hymns as set forth the corruption of the human heart; the dreadful nature of sin; the necessity of holiness; the forgiveness of sin; and the influences of the Holy Spirit, were those on which she evidently dwelt with most interest, as they received the mark of her pencil.

If we had no other proofs of the pious turn of our beloved daughter's mind than those already recorded; yet these, taken in connection with our intimate acquaintance with her Christian habits and tempers; her conscientious discharge of religious duties; her reverence of sacred things; her delight in the society of eminent Christians; and her active endeavours to do good among the poor, would afford great consolation as to her

present happy state: but it ought to excite more thankfulness than, at present, I fear we are capable of manifesting, that we have much additional evidence of her being a truly Christian character.

I know not that, at a very early age, she gave more than ordinary indications of a mind affected by religious truths. She was, as I have observed, vivacious, fond of play, and delighted with the society of her young friends: at the same time, she was remarkable for her filial affection, and readiness to make almost any sacrifice to render those around her happy. Every opportunity had been taken to instil the principles of Christian piety into her infant mind: and the first appearance of what was wrong was carefully watched and corrected. On this subject, it is only allowed me to say—what I should hope is common with all Christian parents—that a constant vigilance was exercised over indications of character: serious things, at suitable times, were affectionately urged; the memory was stored with the most important elementary knowledge; truth was most

inviolably attended to; a due observation of the Sabbath was strictly enforced, though rendered as cheerful as the nature of religious duties would admit; and parental authority, though exercised with as light a hand as was practicable, was uniformly maintained. These means of forming the infant character of our beloved daughter, were, at times, watered with our tears, and constantly seconded by our earnest prayers for a divine blessing. And I wish here to record my firm persuasion, founded not only on the connection between cause and effect, and the declarations contained in the scriptures; but on a considerable experience in educating youth, and a long attention to what is passing in the religious world, that the future life and character of most persons may be traced to the manner of their being brought up. I say, *most persons*, for I am aware that this rule, like all others, admits of exceptions: but I have scarcely ever had an intimate acquaintance with the interior of a family, without being able, pretty correctly, to divine in what manner the young inmates of it would turn out.

The temper and conduct of parents; their exercise or neglect of an affectionate, but steady authority,—an authority, which was never for a moment allowed to be slighted or disputed: their vigilant observance, or disregard of symptoms of character, as they gradually shewed themselves: the assiduous attention of mothers, to all the little cares and wants of their infants; or their surrendering them chiefly to the superintendence of others: their solemn, but affectionate instructions, accompanied at times with tears; or their slight inculcation of moral duties, and apparent indifference to the manner in which they are received: these, and similar things, will give an indelible stamp of character, and lay the foundation of future happiness or misery. No ground pays better for cultivating than that of the infant mind, both as it respects the quality and quantity of fruit; and it as seldom occurs in the moral as in the natural world, that the reasonable expectations of a harvest are disappointed, where proper means had been employed to secure it. In a few cases it has hap-

pened that the soil has been duly prepared, the best seed has been sown, and the weeds have been carefully cleared away; and yet the labour of the husbandman has been frustrated: the refreshing rains did not fall; or the invigorating rays of the sun were not shed; or a mildew, or blight, withered the fruit; but this is the exception, not the customary order of things: the covenant still holds good, that “there shall be summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, while the earth remaineth.” No man, however, expects to reap the fruits of the earth, who has neglected the proper seed time; much less does he hope to “gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles.” Yet such absurd expectations are not unfrequently formed in the neglect of all moral culture. The ground lies fallow; the most pernicious seeds lie under its surface; the seed time is utterly disregarded; or if a handful of corn be now and then scattered, no prayers bring down the dews of heaven to moisten, nor the beams of the Sun of Righteousness to quicken the little and defective seed that is sown: the

weeds are suffered to luxuriate and choke the early blade; and yet—bitter disappointment is felt that no crop grows! and no harvest is reaped! I have often thought that, if the same good sense were shewn in the cultivation of the infant mind, as the husbandman discovers in the management of his farm, it would be as rare a thing to see a total failure in the former, as in the latter. God “honours those who honour him;”—and every where it will be seen, that “the hand of the diligent maketh rich.”

At an early age, my daughter was placed in a respectable ladies' school, at Brighton: but so strong were her attachments to home, that I believe she was far from being happy in the new circumstances in which she found herself placed. Her agitation, I have since learned, on receiving the first letter from me, was so great, that she held it for some time in her hand, as in a state of stupor; and then burst into a flood of tears. The first unfavourable impressions of school were never afterwards completely worn away; and though

her excellent governess shewed her much kindness, I found the return to Brighton, after every vacation, was so painful, that I removed her at length to Kensington Square, a much shorter distance from home ; and on that, as well as some other accounts, more accordant with our mutual wishes. Change of situation, increase of years, and greater firmness of mind, rendered her future continuance at school far less disagreeable than it had been before ; but still, her affections were so entirely domestic, that I believe she always considered her absence from home as a necessary evil, which it was her duty to bear with as much fortitude and composure as she could acquire. Had it been as much a matter of choice, as it was of necessity, I believe that these separations, so painful to both parties, would never have taken place : but my own scholastic engagements utterly precluded her being kept at home. And it is in this way, I presume, that the general question, as to the expediency of sending daughters from home, to receive their education, usually resolves itself. It is not so

much an affair of comparative advantages and disadvantages, as it is of imperious circumstances; and against these it is in vain to contend.

It was to the pious and affectionate, but firm and prudent management of her excellent governess, that I attribute, under God, much of the character for which she was afterwards distinguished. Early impressions of the best nature had undoubtedly been previously made; and the good seed had taken some root; but as yet nothing decisive of character had taken place. The mind was flexible; evil tendencies were strong; and pious habits were yet unformed. Much depended on the individual to whom she must now look, not only for instruction, but example, whether her previous impressions should be deepened and become permanent; or whether they should be entirely effaced: whether the seed should produce fruit; or be choked with weeds: and happy was it, both for our beloved daughter and ourselves, that we had not mistaken the character to whom we had intrusted her education. The in-

structions of her early infancy were ably seconded; and an example as amiable as it was correct; and as prudent as it was Christian, was constantly before her. The result was such as might have been anticipated: the suitable means had been employed, in hope of God's blessing upon them, and that blessing was abundantly bestowed. Our dear daughter was at length restored to the bosom of her family, to our mutual joy, not only with a mind well stored with the most useful and ornamental elementary knowledge, which was a matter of great importance; but, what was paramount to every thing else, with a heart duly affected towards God, and religious truth; prepared to advance to higher attainments in the divine life, and ready to take an active part in promoting what ever might bring glory to God, or good to man.

It affords me a high gratification to add, that a mutual esteem and affection ever afterwards subsisted between my beloved daughter and Mrs. Bowden (for this was the name which her governess, Miss Hance, afterwards acquired by marriage); and a correspondence was

kept up between them to the last: nor was it a little affecting to us, that, after more than a year's interruption to their letters, one from Mrs. Bowden, written, it should seem, about the time when the spirit of my dear daughter was quitting its earthly tenement, arrived at Chobham, when she lay a corpse in her chamber. Her mother and myself, had, that morning, been talking over the events of her life; and endeavouring to fix on the particular periods of it, when her mind seemed to have received its strongest impressions of religious truth, and the most decided bias to a Christian course: and we dwelt, with peculiar thankfulness, on that portion of her time which she had spent with this lady. At the reception of this letter I need not say, that the fountain of our tears was again opened. We said to each other, O, how delighted would our dear daughter have been, had she been permitted to receive this renewed token of the affectionate remembrance of one, whom she never thought of, but with the kindest recollections; and never mentioned, but with the greatest respect. In one part of

this interesting letter, Mrs. Bowden observes, "Our knowledge of each other is a link in Providence, connected with so many others, that a very long chain will appear, in eternity, to have depended on what, at the moment, was considered in the common course of our movements." This beautiful sentiment was true to an extent of which the amiable writer had no idea, at the time of expressing it; for the seal of eternity was about to be fixed on an immortal being, whose destiny, humanly speaking, she had a principal hand in fixing! O what a fact, for the consideration of all who are intrusted with the education of youth!

I could not avoid thus associating with this tribute of parental affection to my beloved daughter, a name that was so justly dear to her, and who had so intimate a concern, in every thing which related to her present and future well-being.

Having brought my own scholastic engagements nearly to a close, I may, I trust, without presumption, say a word on the importance of character and conduct in those, who have the care of youth.

A considerable portion of knowledge is, of course, indispensable; and an exterior deportment, corresponding with the manners of the times, is not without its value. But there are many qualities, requisite for the discharge of this important office, of a higher order than these; and which are neither always possessed by those who excel in the former; nor looked for by those who are in search of a suitable instructor and guardian for their children. One of these qualities is a quick perception of character: a penetration that discovers, at a glance, the motives of action: a mind that connects the apparently trivial and generally unheeded incidents of the day, with governing principles; and ascertains the moral health or malady of the pupil, by certain minute, but prevailing tendencies. Some characters, it is true, are so distinctly marked, that a very cursory observer cannot mistake them: but there are others of which it is hard to say what is the ruling passion; or what direction it may eventually take: and yet upon the timely discovery of this, may depend the most important and permanent results. An

erroneous opinion of the individual, or an improper treatment of his case, may lead to the most pernicious consequences: and it often requires a peculiar tact, which may be more easily conceived than described, to make the correct and seasonable discovery.

Another indispensable requisite in a tutor is, great firmness of mind, to enable him to adhere to prudent plans and fixed principles, without regarding apparent consequences. Few things require greater fortitude than an inflexible adherence to what had been previously determined to be proper: and yet, on this perseverance, the authority and respect, which are essential to the proper management of a school, mainly rest. The capriciousness of parents will be ever suggesting something fresh; novelty is agreeable to the fickleness of youth; unexpected incidents render the customary course inconvenient; and perpetual inducements to depart from the system, which the most satisfactory reasons had suggested, present themselves: but the moment a tutor begins to waver in his purpose, mischief will ensue; his plans will be over-

turned, and confusion, as well as contempt of authority must be the result.

Nearly allied to this quality, is an impartial and even-handed treatment of all the individuals in his establishment. Temper, agreeableness of manners, station in life, talents, attainments, will each, in its turn, put in its claim for distinction ; and induce, if not carefully guarded against, a system of favouritism, than which few things can be more prejudicial to the minds of youth. Jealousy of the favoured pupil ; disgust of the tutor for his weakness and injustice ; and dissatisfaction with the whole system must necessarily follow. It is impossible indeed to feel equal respect and affection for every one, however differing in disposition and diligence ; but a prudent person will conceal, as much as possible, his preference : and if at any time, it be proper to shew it, he will take care to make it manifest that it is grounded on propriety ; and is not the result of caprice or injustice.

The greatest prudence is necessary in communicating religious instruction. It is

much easier to excite disgust in the juvenile mind against the leading truths of the gospel, than to open the heart for their reception. The natural tendencies, it should be remembered, are hostile to them, because they lay a restraint on the passions, and counteract their pursuit of pleasure. Every thing, therefore, should be cautiously avoided, which could even remotely tend to augment this prejudice. No unnecessary restrictions should be imposed: there should be no unseasonable interruption of indifferent amusements: no harsh censures on a course of conduct in others, which may not perhaps be strictly correct, but the evil of which is not obvious, and which their previous bringing up has not prepared them to think improper. Care should be taken that nothing in the manners of the tutor should convey an idea of gloom or moroseness; for all that is repulsive in him, will be immediately transferred to his religion. An extreme anxiety to see the fruit of our pious labours, may, if not guarded against, induce a habit of continual admonition, which never fails to excite irri-

tation and disgust in the pupil. Some excellent tutors protract, to an undue length, their devotional exercises ; and thus, not only exhaust the attention of those, who are well affected towards religion ; but prevent any attention at all in those that are indifferent about it ; and disgust in such as are ill affected towards it : whilst, on the other hand, something brief and pointed in the exposition of the Scriptures ; and short and fervent in prayer, would, in all probability, deeply interest the first ; gain the attention of the second, and divest the other of his prejudices.

In censuring faults too, extreme care is necessary, lest we confirm the very vices we wish to correct. The first object should be to gain the confidence of the individual, on whose conduct we have occasion to animadvert : and this may oftentimes be secured, by commencing with commendation of what is really laudable in him. He thus, at once perceives that his faults have not blinded us to his better qualities ; and he is put into a proper temper to receive our admonition. Where unhappy prejudices are formed a-

gainst the important peculiarities of the gospel, the proper method of treating them is by mildness and conciliation; and the introduction of right sentiments, when the mind is least on its guard, and incapable of throwing itself into the attitude of defence. The best way of rooting out prejudices, is to get hold of the affections; and when they are properly excited, to ply them with right principles: and I believe it may be laid down as an invariable maxim, that prejudices may be undermined, but never stormed.

I will only add, in conclusion, that in the infliction of punishment, the tutor must never forget the respect which is due to himself. Corporal chastisement is seldom exercised without increasing the irritation of the tutor, as well as the resentment of the pupil; and should therefore never be resorted to, but in very extraordinary emergencies. Where vices are malignant and inveterate, there is no alternative. Be the rank or station of the individual what it may, the sacrifice must be made; and the danger of infection be precluded, by the removal of the noxious cha-

racter. Should it be urged against this decisive measure, that we thus cut off the unhappy youth from any chance of reformation; it may be replied, that the only hope of amendment in him, is in his being placed alone, with some judicious person, who will give him his undivided attention:—but be this as it may, the tutor has no alternative: the excision must be made. He has other pupils; and these must not be exposed to the danger of infection. He has no right to make experiments in the reformation of the profligate, when the consequence of failure may fall on those, who were committed to his charge, under the persuasion that no such dangerous experiments would ever be made.

About the time of my beloved daughter's leaving Kensington-Square, she was of a proper age to receive confirmation; and as soon as an opportunity occurred, I directed her attention to the due preparation for it. Her mind was already stored with much religious knowledge; her tempers, habits, and general conduct indicated that she was under the

influence of Christian principles ; and it was desirable that, by her own act, she should make a solemn surrender of herself to God, and publicly devote herself to his service. I have every reason to believe that this was to her, as I well remember it was to myself, when nearly of the same age, one of the most important events of her life. She was diligent in the use of means for a suitable preparation for it, and was much impressed with the solemnity of the ceremony ; nor can I doubt that the blessing of God attended the performance of it.

It is matter of deep regret that an ordinance of religion, so apostolic and venerable in its institution ; and so admirably adapted to awaken serious reflection in youth ; and to fix their volatile thoughts on subjects of infinite moment, should be so generally neglected, or so carelessly performed. The utter disregard of the great mass of professing Christians of the obligations of the baptismal covenant, is too painful a fact for a reflecting mind to dwell upon. Infants are frequently brought to the sacramental font, and there

solemnly pledged to the service of God, without the most distant intention, on the part of their parents or sponsors, to impart any valuable religious knowledge; or to watch over their principles and conduct; or to urge them, at a responsible age, to take upon themselves the obligations of the baptismal covenant, by a solemn devoting of themselves to God in the ordinance of confirmation. In the case of the truly Christian members of our church, how great is the contrast! After years of constant religious instruction, and most affectionate attempts to impress the youthful mind with all that it concerns them to know, and become; they hail the season of confirmation, as affording them a fresh and most seasonable opportunity of urging upon them, with redoubled earnestness and effect, the great truths of the gospel; and engaging them, as it were, in a sacred covenant, to cleave steadfastly to God, to the end of their life. It is to this holy ordinance, that many of the most excellent of the earth have ascribed the commencement of their steady and uniform Christian course. It became a sort of start-

ing point. They had long intended to be religious; and had fixed on various periods for setting out in earnest; but alas! when these arrived, other objects had taken possession of their affections, and the important concern was still postponed to a “a more convenient season.” But the call to a preparation for confirmation, arrested their attention; fixed their volatile thoughts; excited serious reflection; put an end to all procrastination; determined them to take the side of God; shewed them the necessity of a renewed mind; induced them to seek for aid at a throne of grace; and finally effected that change of heart and life, which rendered them, in their day and generation, blessings to the world, and issued in their own everlasting happiness.

As soon as my beloved daughter had been confirmed, her attention was directed to the Lord's Supper; and this gave occasion to increased seriousness and self-examination. Suitable instructions were given, and appropriate books put into her hands;—and I have the most satisfactory evidence, that


this ordinance was exceedingly blessed to her religious improvement. I cannot easily forget the emotion I felt when I first presented my beloved child with the sacred elements; nor the tears which flowed down her cheeks, when she received, into her trembling hand, the memorials of the Saviour's dying love. I know she felt that her "sins were grievous, and the burden of them intolerable:" I know she had no other hope that they would be pardoned, but through "the blood of the cross;" and I have not the least doubt that it was her most earnest prayer, as it was mine, that she might be "one with Christ and Christ with her;" that she might be strengthened and enabled to run the Christian course. And I may here observe that, at no future time, did I administer the sacrament to her, without observing in her the greatest seriousness and solemnity: and had she not told me, with the deepest grief in her last illness, that she had once or twice attended this holy institution without due preparation, I should have concluded that no individual had approached

the table at all times, with deeper contrition for sin ; nor with more earnest desires for an increase of grace ; nor with a more fixed determination to seek after holiness, than herself. I never remember seeing her at the Lord's table without manifest emotions of mind ; and seldom, without tears. So great was her humility, and such the overwhelming sense she felt of her utter unworthiness to partake of " these holy mysteries," and exalted privileges, that I believe the sentiment of awe usually predominated on these occasions : but she would not be the less acceptable to the compassionate Saviour, because she felt herself " unworthy even to gather up the crumbs which fall under his table ;" and because, she " looked upon him whom she had pierced, and mourned because of him : " If " to this man God looks, who is of a humble and contrite heart, and that trembles at his word," then was my dear daughter always an acceptable guest at that holy table ; and departed from it, in possession of the sacramental blessing.

And here I cannot help remarking, how admirably the institutions of our church are adapted to keep up, in succession, the proper Christian feeling; and to promote our “growth in grace, and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” At the commencement of life, we are set apart for the worship and service of God, and made partakers of the blessed privileges of the Christian covenant, by an ordinance, at once the most simple, significant, and solemn. Every thing, which piety or prudence could suggest, to make the first and best impressions, and to secure the most early attention to the “One thing needful,” is done for us in baptism. As soon as it is supposed that the mind is properly stored with Christian knowledge, and the heart duly influenced by spiritual principles, and the habits formed for holy living, we are invited to make a public profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and to seek an increased portion of the influences of the Holy Spirit, by earnest prayer, and the primitive custom of “laying on of hands,” that we may “continue Christ’s

faithful soldiers and servants, to our life's end." We are next called upon to bind ourselves, by the most affecting and sacred tokens, to perpetual fidelity to our " Lord and Master;" and to enter into the most intimate union and fellowship with him, by partaking of elements, which represent the body that was crucified, and the blood which was shed for our eternal salvation. And in order to keep up a perpetual memory of these inestimable blessings, exalted privileges, and solemn obligations, we are required, from time to time, to repeat the sacred ceremony, which is pregnant with such affecting considerations, and beneficial results. Nor can I entertain a reasonable doubt that my beloved daughter reaped a rich harvest from these institutions. I know they awakened her attention, from time to time, to the most important concerns; and served to keep alive those Christian feelings, which are essential to our happiness in both worlds; and which, without these means of grace, would have been in danger of languishing, if not of utter extinction.


Having brought the account of my dear daughter to that period of her life, when she became a constant inmate of our family; having her religious principles in some degree fixed, and her character formed; she may now be considered as our confidential associate, and the companion of all our social enjoyments and pleasures. It has been our custom, for several years, to relieve the monotony of scholastic employments, as well as to relax the mind and refresh the spirits, to make an excursion, during two or three weeks in the summer, to some new scene. The first, in which our dear daughter accompanied us, was to Matlock. The anticipation of this pleasure had long afforded us an agreeable subject of conversation; and seemed to beguile the tedium which is apt to attend the customary routine of duty. It appears to me to be matter of thankfulness that Providence has placed, within our reach, so many simple and natural remedies against wearisomeness and exhaustion. The recollections of past events, the little incidents of every returning day, and plans for future en-



gagements, furnish an almost infinite variety for conversation; and ought to be reckoned among the many proofs of the Divine goodness, by which we are enabled daily to renew our strength, and cheerfully to discharge the important duties of life. There is neither philosophy nor religion in despising little things. Life is, in a great measure, made up of them; and it is only on great occasions, that extraordinary talents and attainments are called into action. Those therefore, who refuse to take a part in conversation, unless some subject of importance be under discussion, act an unnatural, as well as an unsocial part; and exclude themselves from one of the cheapest and most abundant sources of rational enjoyment.

Various incidents occurred, on our way to Matlock, which were interesting to ourselves, particularly as it led us through the neighbourhood in which the greater part of my own youth had been spent; but as Matlock was the chief point of our destination, so it was also the spot which excited in her the chief interest. On our arrival, in the cool

Our out-of-door pleasures were interrupted by one or two wet days; but they did not prevent my dear Hannah from enjoying pleasures of another kind. She had made, at Matlock, a few new acquaintances, and she thought their friendship worth cultivating, by drawing nearer to them in social intercourse. Her agreeable conversational talent, joined with her unassuming and unaffected manners, and her readiness to fall in with their own way of amusing themselves, soon rendered her a favourite with the party; and I believe the lasting esteem of one or two pious and excellent ladies was the result of this accidental acquaintance. It was one of the happy peculiarities of my dear daughter's mind, to gull pleasure from whatever she came in contact. Almost every thing has a dark and a bright side;—and while some possess an unhappy ingenuity in discovering some ground for repining under the most enviable circumstances, she could generally find some cause for cheerfulness in those that were by no means inviting. Disappointment never rendered her sullen and unconvertible. The



wetness of a day, which thwarted a favourite plan, never discomposed her : she would join indeed with her friends and say “ what a disagreeable day it is ! ” but she never suffered the day to make *her* disagreeable ; she would, on the contrary, rather summon all her powers to disperse the gloom it seemed to bring along with it, by being more than ordinarily cheerful in herself. I am aware indeed that these are minute things ; but still they are characteristic ; and I trust I may be indulged a little, if, with a heart still bleeding at the loss of this beloved daughter, I linger on those excellencies of her disposition that made her so dear to ourselves.

One of the objects I had in view, in this summer excursion, was to pay a visit to some of those places, which had been the scene of my juvenile pleasures, and early education : and it singularly fell out that, on the first Sunday of my absence from home, I preached in the Church of my native village, in Nottinghamshire ; on the second, in the place where I spent the most years of my scholastic education, in Derbyshire ; and the third, in the

of the evening, at the summit of the hill, which commands an extensive view over this romantic place, I shall not soon forget what amazement seized my beloved daughter at the scene before her. The precipitous descent, down which the carriage had to pass, seemed greatly to alarm her. The stupendous rocks, which projected their bold and barren fronts, which ever way she looked, presented such an aspect of terrific grandeur, as she had never before beheld; and filled her with such awe, as prevented her at first admiring, in other parts, the beautiful sides of the lofty hills, which are covered with a variety of trees and shrubs, and are washed, at their base, by the streams of the Derwent, softening and adorning the scenery with indescribable beauty. When she recovered from the first impression, and had safely passed the frightful descent, her mind was exceedingly elated with the sublime and enchanting scenery around her; and she hastened from one spot of beauty to another, without, for the present, resting upon any, as if incapable of satiating her eager curiosity

and wondering eyes. Hitherto disease had made no inroads on our beloved child's constitution: Her cheeks were flushed with health; her limbs were elastic and pliant: and her ardent mind was at its height of vigour. She ascended the steepest hills with agility; and looked upon her more sedate and cautious fellow adventurers, as they slowly mounted the acclivity, with exultation and triumph. "The Heights of Abraham" were scaled again and again; and she was always the ready companion of every fresh friend, who needed a guide and an encourager to encounter those difficulties, which she had so often overcome. Her taste for what was grand and beautiful in nature was exquisite; and few manifested greater delight than she did, in whatever presented itself under this aspect. But she did not satisfy herself with merely beholding nature in her sublimity: she descended also with no ordinary pleasure to examine her more minute and microscopic wonders; and she was ever viewing, with admiration, the almost endless variety of mineral and fossile curiosities, with which this romantic place abounds.

lips, and the emotions of my heart, been noticed by any one, I must have appeared to him as an extraordinary stranger.

On the Sunday then, I repaired with my wife and daughter again to Ashover; and there entered the church, under impressions which it is impossible to forget. I had, to proceed to the reading desk (for I requested that I might perform the whole duty) through the pew, in which I had sat more than thirty years ago, eagerly listening to the extraordinary sermons delivered by my late revered Tutor. I say, extraordinary;—for there was in them a mixture of vehement zeal; simple eloquence; bold declamation against vice; awful warning of the consequences of rejecting the Saviour; and fearless courage in delivering his message,—almost approaching at times to daring the enemies of truth, and yet accompanied with such tenderness towards those, who discovered the least desire to be reconciled to God, and to embrace the salvation which is by faith in Christ Jesus, as I do not remember to have since heard. On passing into

the desk, I cast my eyes round the sacred edifice:—I recognized several faces, that still bore a resemblance to what they were more than thirty years before, but who had now advanced from manhood to the vale of life;—others, whom I had known when boys, but who had now passed, like myself, the prime of their days; but a still larger portion of the audience were entirely unknown to me; whilst I perceived the absence of numbers, who had gone to give an account of themselves at that tribunal; to which my worthy Tutor had so often challenged them,—for I looked in vain for them, in the pews where I had been accustomed once to see them. The very walls of the church were calculated to awaken the most affecting recollections:—for on them, were still extant and prominent, several passages of Scripture, written in large roman characters, with my own hand, and with the initials of my name, and the date of the year, at the corner of them. There I read, in letters of extraordinary size, —“ Prepare to meet thy God.”—in another part, “ Forget not the assembling of your-

selves together as the manner of some is;— and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.”—And over one of the doors, “Consider what has been said; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things:” for being a better penman than most of my school-fellows, my excellent Tutor had employed me in this somewhat novel way of decorating the church. It will not be wondered then, if, under such circumstances, my feelings were wrought to a somewhat higher pitch than ordinary; and that, as I addressed my congregation only from notes, I took advantage of these circumstances; and spoke with such an effect as they might be expected to occasion. When I stated to the congregation, that it was within those sacred walls, that my own heart had been most powerfully impressed with the importance of the truths, which I had just been stating; and that, though there were many things which I had, at that early period of my life, embraced as valuable and true, which I had since seen reason to reject as useless or pernicious, every succeeding year had deep-

ened my conviction of the infinite value of what I had there imbibed; and would continue to do so, I had no doubt, till I found their importance stamped with the seal of eternity:—When I alluded to the excellent man, from whom I had learned those truths; and reminded some, who then heard me, of his indefatigable zeal in inculcating them, and the incessant labour with which he had endeavoured to bring them to the knowledge of the truth, and into the way of salvation;—and that he had already entered into his reward, as a faithful ambassador of Jesus Christ; and would appear as “a swift witness,” against those who continued to disregard the message he had delivered:—when I alluded to the many, whom I had known among them, but who had now given an account to God of the things done in the body:—when I appealed to those who were now on the verge of eternity, but who, at that time, were in the prime of manhood; and inquired what effect the truths he had taught had produced on their heart and conduct:—and addressed both young and old, rich and poor, with

the greatest plainness and affection;—the whole congregation appeared to be dissolved in tears; and I trust another day will shew that our mutual feelings did not transpire with the occasion. God grant I may meet many of them, with their late revered Minister, when the Saviour shall enter in triumph, with the multitude of his Redeemed, into his everlasting kingdom!

My personal obligations to this excellent man, make me desirous of discharging a debt of gratitude; nor can I do this, in a way more consonant with my feelings, than by embalming his memory in this tribute of affection to my beloved daughter. When Mr. Cursham accepted the curacy of Ash-over, his views of religion were very different from what they became after two or three years residence in that place. There never was a time, from the commencement of his ministry, when he was not most strictly conscientious in the discharge of his pastoral duties; and he laboured, with great acceptableness and success, in reforming gross immoralities, and open disregard of religious

duties, both at Blidworth, in Nottinghamshire, where he first entered on his ministry; and at Sutton-in-Ashfield; in the same county, to which he next removed. At Ashover also, his first labours were equally successful; and many careless and profligate characters were awakened to a sense of the importance of religion. His views, however, of the peculiar doctrines of Christianity were hitherto very obscure; or rather, as he himself considered, and often acknowledged them, essentially erroneous. He had planned an excellent system of morals; but he had not placed, as the center of it, the Sun of Righteousness; and consequently there was nothing to fix and retain the characters he reformed in their right orbit; or to warm, and animate, and fructify them. He saw no "unsearchable riches in Christ," and therefore, he did not preach them: he felt no "constraining love" of him; and therefore he did not communicate the feeling to others. He was, however, perfectly honest in teaching others as much as he knew himself; and I believe few ever more faithfully denounced

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 recently been taught; and under the strong
 influence of this new impetus, he was some-
 times carried beyond the limits, which a cold

and calculating prudence would have proscribed. Nor do I intend to justify all his measures. I well recollect many things, which were far from being discreet, and which were calculated to excite a strong prejudice against him: and I the more readily pass this opinion on part of the conduct of an individual, whose memory I shall ever revere, because more than once afterwards, I heard him express his regret on account of these imprudences. But it requires no great knowledge of human nature to learn, with what difficulty strong impressions are kept within due bounds. Whilst under their full influence, we can think and speak of nothing but the favourite topic; and all other objects seem, for a season, to be banished out of creation. Just allowance ought, therefore, to be made for the common defects of our nature; and whilst too many of us are grievously erring on the side of deficiency in zeal, we ought not to visit, with unmeasured censure, that of excess. The effect however, of this change of sentiment was most marked, both in himself and

his parish. A strong interest was also excited in the neighbouring villages; and his church became exceedingly crowded, not only with his own parishioners, but with those who came out of curiosity or from better motives, from other places. A few of the more opulent part of his charge became offended, both at his doctrines, his vehement manner of enforcing them, and the inconvenience they were subject to, when they occasionally attended church, from their pews being pre-occupied by others, who had taken possession of them, because they had generally found them empty. These stirred up a violent opposition: representations were made to the Rector and the Bishop of the diocese; and, eventually, Mr. Cursham was removed from his curacy. At the time this took place, I was a pupil of this zealous minister; was deeply impressed with the truths he inculcated, and considered every thing he said and did to be exactly right and proper. The effect of time and experience, upon my own mind, has been to confirm my former opinions of the truth and importance

of his doctrines; to lead me to applaud and adopt many of his excellent measures; but to regret that, in some other respects, this excellent minister did not act with due discretion. Some of his proceedings afforded but too just ground of complaint; and the whole of the opposition he met with, ought not to be charged to the score of religion.

I would take this opportunity of urging upon every zealous advocate of the peculiar truths of the gospel, the necessity of caution, lest by any indiscretion of theirs, they excite unnecessary prejudice. It is of the last importance clearly to distinguish between what is *essential*, and what may be only *expedient*. In the former, no compromise can possibly be made. The truth, in a Christian spirit, and in its just proportion, must be delivered, fearless of all consequences. But there is much scope for deliberation, as to the extent to which *improvements*, ought to be pushed. A minister may discharge his own conscience, and his flock may be saved, without adopting them at all; and it becomes a simple question of ultimate

advantage or disadvantage, whether they should be introduced. Taken by themselves, the question is decided at once; but, taken in their necessary connection with other things, they require a sound judgment to determine their expediency. The benefit expected may be purchased at too high a price; and the price should be ascertained, to its full extent, before any experiment be made. If some good men had previously calculated the degree of irritation, and the party spirit which a change in modes of singing, or in the usual version of the Psalms, or times of performing divine service, or other innovations on long established customs, were likely to produce, they would have hesitated before they adopted the obnoxious measure; and at least waited till a fair opportunity had occurred of making the alteration, with the least possible violence to inveterate prejudices. Rashness, in these respects, has frequently excited strong opposition; and sometimes led to the removal of valuable men from important stations. In such cases, it is unjust to attach these

consequences to a faithful discharge of pastoral duties: they ought rather to be ascribed to a want of judgment, and an ill disciplined mind, in the individual who forced his measures, and could brook no opposition to his plans. I say nothing of those measures, which some would adopt, in direct opposition to the usages and discipline of the church to which they belong; because it seems to be a violation of the principles of common honesty, to trample upon the regulations to which they had voluntarily bound themselves. No man can have received a dispensation to set at nought his own vows, as well as the decent order, which the wisdom and piety of the best of men had prescribed: and when, after having done this, he charges those, whose duty it is to guard the institutions of the church against innovation, with persecution for righteousness' sake, for having discountenanced his irregularities; and appeals to the public on the hardship of his case, he merits any thing rather than that christian sympathy to which he lays claim, and which he is sometimes fortunate enough to obtain.

With regard to Mr. Cursham, I may add, that he was a man of a large and benevolent mind; and when an object presented itself, which was obviously good, he was no nice calculator of the sacrifices he might be required to make in accomplishing it; but, if at all practicable, he immediately set himself to work; and often achieved his point, before others would have settled the previous question whether, all things considered, the attempt were feasible.

Soon after Mr. Cursham's removal from Ashover, he was presented to the living of Annesly, in Nottinghamshire; and after a life of more extensive usefulness than ordinarily falls to the lot of clergymen, in similar situations, and leaving behind him a name, which will long be held in veneration, far beyond the circle in which he immediately moved, he died at Sutton-in-Ashfield, about twenty years ago. — "The memory of the just shall be blessed."

But it is more than time that I return from this digression.

This excursion was attended with so many occurrences that were novel to my dear Hannah, and afforded so many occasions of displaying the different traits of her character, that I feel a strong temptation to dwell upon them more at large; but I fear it may be thought that I have already indulged sufficiently long in this strain of feeling; I will therefore forbear.

Having interspersed this slight outline of my dear daughter's early life and education, with such remarks as appear to me important in the training up of children, and recorded a few of the most important and interesting events of her life, I wish to add a few particulars of her domestic, social, and general conduct.


It will be inferred from what has been said of her cheerful and self-denying temper, that she would be a favourite in all parties: and I can truly say that, so essential was her presence to all the enjoyments and pleasures of the family circle, that now she is gone, every thing seems to have lost the charm and attraction with which it was before



invested. There is scarcely an object we see, or touch, or talk of, with which she was not so intimately blended, as to call forth the most lively perceptions of her presence, and the most acute anguish, at the immediate recollection, that this presence is only ideal. It was but lately that her much loved mother was making some arrangements in her store-closet, when, discovering that some jars wanted labels, she called out—Hannah! but alas! the instant recollection that Hannah could return no answer, overwhelmed her with indescribable agony. The little ornaments of the parlour, the study, the chamber, were supplied by her taste, and generally wrought by her hands. The garden and green-house owed their choicest plants and flowers to her selection; and now she no longer walks among them, the very exuberance, with which they have, this spring and summer, displayed their beauties, and shed their fragrance, increases the sorrowful recollections with which each of them is associated. If we walk in the retired lanes, or fields of our village, or visit the cottages of the poor, gloom and solitariness accompany

us, instead of the ever cheerful and smiling countenance of our sweet daughter. Even the sacred duties of domestic and public worship seem to have lost a portion of their interest, from the absence of that deeply serious, and ever-wakeful attention with which she always joined in them; and which formed so delightful a contrast to her customary vivacity. I am aware that a portion of this feeling may be ascribed to the common associations of parental affection with a departed child, even of ordinary qualities; but I am fully persuaded that it was the peculiar and excellent properties of our beloved daughter, which call forth the extraordinary yearnings of our heart at every recollection of her: and strange indeed would it be, if it were otherwise: for what parent could be insensible of attentions so tender, and assiduous, and self-denying (if self-denying those attentions can be called, which never suffered self to have a share even in thought, where the comfort of her much loved parents was concerned) as those which we every day experienced?

The slightest indisposition in us, never escaped her ever-wakeful anxiety; and it immediately called forth her tender and endearing attentions. If any disease of a more serious nature than usual assailed us, it is impossible to describe the feeling and interest it instantly occasioned. She watched every look, and anticipated every want. She was ever at the side of the sick bed, contriving something to soothe and alleviate her patient; administering medicine, or surprising him with something which she thought would beguile the sickly appetite. Her expressive countenance, it is true, refused to conceal her secret emotions; but that was not her fault: she did all that was possible to suppress what was passing in her own breast, and to cheer and sustain her beloved patient: and I may be permitted to say, both for myself and my dear wife, that the goings forth of our heart to our beloved daughter on these occasions, were such as no language can describe; and which can be understood by those only, who have been blessed with an only daughter like our own. Saving the




uneasiness we could not fail to experience on witnessing her exquisite sensibility and anxiety on our account, the hours of sickness and languor were beguiled by her presence, and passed away in comparative ease and cheerfulness. On these occasions, I need not say, that no inducement could draw her from her paternal roof; and every engagement, whatever pleasure she had anticipated from it, was immediately given up, when she thought her presence at home could be of the least benefit. It was but a few weeks previous to her dissolution, that I was attacked with a fit of the gout. At the time of my recovering from it, she was solicited to spend a short time in Guildford Street, with her highly esteemed friends Mr. and Mrs. Bainbridge, and her long tried and confidential friend Miss Tatham; and we all much wished her to accept the kind invitation; but I had much difficulty in persuading her to leave me: nor was it till after repeated assurances that I was convalescent, that she was prevailed upon to accompany her friends.

Whilst giving this recent instance of self-denial, when the prospect of much pleasure was before her, numerous others, of a similar nature, rush on my mind, and excite feelings, which I will not attempt to describe. She has, alas ! performed the last of these affectionate attentions : and though we shall, I doubt not, be mercifully supported in our future pains and sicknesses, yet no daughter will again stand at our pillow to watch our looks, to administer medicine, and anticipate our wants. No daughter will again reluctantly withdraw from our sick bed for the purpose of giving vent to her feelings ; or of repairing, for fresh exertions, by a few hours of disturbed sleep, her own exhausted strength : nor again, when returning health has changed the gloom of the darkened chamber, into the cheerful light of day, will she accelerate our convalescence by her assiduous attentions, and sprightly conversation, and ever-smiling countenance : nor render that health doubly valued, by restoring us to the endeared society of the most beloved of all our earthly objects. But I ought not to indulge in these

regrets. The event has been mercifully ordained, as well for us, as for our beloved daughter; and in a better world, we shall meet, I trust, under more favourable circumstances. Neither she nor her parents will then be distracted with pain, nor languish with sickness; nor shall we again undergo the pangs of separation.

I am restrained from dwelling upon the union of heart, which subsisted between her and her brothers, by the recollection that this Tribute of parental affection will fall into the hands of the latter. How dear she was to them, and how much cause there was to make her dear, they best know: but their parents can wish for no other proof of their mutual esteem and love, than the uninterrupted harmony in which they lived for many years; the constantly increasing interest they took in each other's welfare; the unsatiated delight they manifested in each other's company; and the heart-rending grief and distress with which her death overwhelmed them. I may speak, however, more freely of the affection with which she cherished

them. Nothing could be more gratifying to a parent's feelings, than to observe the constant goings forth of her heart towards them. The slightest circumstances, which affected them, deeply penetrated her. She rejoiced in their hopes; and sustained a larger portion than themselves in their disappointments. It was one of her chief pleasures to associate with them, when at home; and to correspond with them by letters, when they were absent. She put the most unbounded confidence in them; and gave them a great deal more credit than I am sure they will give themselves, for the best of principles and the best of dispositions: and had she been longer spared, they would at least have had one friend, to whom they might intrust, with safety, their inmost hopes and fears, and who would have been at all times a disinterested, and I believe, also a prudent counsellor in all their difficulties. But they are now cut off from her society, and no longer walk together as friends. Their loss I am sure, is great, and I believe they appreciate it. Should a temptation ever solicit



them to decline from the path of religion, and piety, they will, I trust, think of their sister. As a subordinate motive to holiness, they can scarcely have a stronger ; and their recollection of past pleasure in her society, will urge them, I humbly hope, to seek a re-union, which shall be uninterrupted and eternal.

In the limited circle of her acquaintance, she had a few choice friends, whom she greatly esteemed and loved : and we could desire no better testimony of the sincere regard and affection in which she was held by them, than the deep and strong sensation, which her death excited among them. All seemed to feel that a blank had been made in their social parties, which would not soon be filled up. In the various and affecting ways, in which they have expressed their regrets, they speak with one voice on the unaffected simplicity of her manners, the sweetness of her disposition, and her uninterrupted cheerfulness and vivacity. There was a charm in her deportment, which made

her a favourite wherever she was known : and I ascribe this chiefly to the sincerity of her attachments ; her unassuming demeanour ; her delight in making all around her happy, by consulting their wishes, and concealing her own ; her playfulness of humour, which was entirely divested of sarcasm ; and her high sense of propriety and delicacy of conduct.

It may be observed of her general deportment, and intercourse with her neighbours, and especially with the poor of the village, that she uniformly displayed the character of a Christian and kind friend, and was greatly beloved by them all. To the lower classes, she was most kind and affable. She took a great interest in their welfare, and spent much of her time in visiting their cottages. On these occasions, she seldom failed to inculcate upon them the necessity of attending to their own salvation ; and urged them to a constant attendance on the ordinances of religion, and the reading of the Holy Scriptures ; and intreated them

to send their children regularly to the village school. When they alledged, as a reason for their neglect in this respect, that they had no shoes, or clothes proper for their appearance, she would often furnish them with necessaries from her private purse, or mention their case to me. She paid particular attention to their children: and in the most discouraging cases, she continued her efforts to instil into them some portion of knowledge and christian principles, with a perseverance which is seldom equalled; and when any apparent good resulted, she "rejoiced as one that had found great spoil." She paid much attention to their neatness of dress and cleanliness; and took great delight in preparing bonnets against St. Thomas' Day, on which, clothes to a large amount, are annually distributed among the poor of Chobham. No day in the year, I have reason to believe, was so pleasant to her as this. The idea of seeing two or three hundred parents and children comfortably provided with clothes, and sheets, and blankets

for the winter; and all looking clean and comfortable, afforded her a gratification, which kind hearted persons alone can understand.* The next Anniversary will want a charm, of which more than her parents will be sensible. She was, as might be expected from this imperfect statement, much beloved by the poor. They considered her as one of their best friends; and not without reason, for it was one of her highest gratifications to promote their comfort; and in doing this, she counted neither time nor trouble. A short time ago, it appeared desirable to divide this extensive parish into different dis-

* The nature of this excellent Institution, and its Rules, have been set forth and printed under the Title of "The Rules of the Chobham Benevolent Fund, with Explanatory Remarks." Sold by Wilson, Essex Street, price 6d. If any profits should arise from this Publication, they will be given to the Chobham Benevolent Fund. From thirteen years experience I can assert, that no Charity of a secular nature that I am acquainted with, has been so useful.

tricts, for the purpose of exercising a more efficient inspection of its various parts : and several benevolent individuals undertook a share in the charitable work of urging parents to a more constant attendance at church, and greater punctuality in sending their children to school : of enquiring into their wants ; and particularly, whether they had Bibles, Prayer Books, &c. and giving them such advice as the varying circumstances of their families might require. My dear daughter begged for herself the inspection of the most remote, and, in many respects, the most discouraging parts of the parish ; for no other reason that I can conjecture, than that others might find it inconvenient to undertake this portion. With what cheerfulness and perseverance she pursued this “ labour of love,” in despite of more difficulties than she could have anticipated, none but her most intimate friends can form an idea. I have reason to fear that these long walks (for she had to go nearly three miles, before she entered on her district ; and, the cottages lay scattered

over a wide surface) were more than her now evidently declining strength was at all times equal to; and I sometimes said, "I am afraid you over-exert yourself. These walks exceed your strength, and do you harm:" but she invariably answered, with a sweetness of countenance and expression peculiar to herself, "O no! I am not fatigued: the walk does not injure me. I called at Mr. Rogers', where I rested, and had some cake; and I am not at all the worse." And here I cannot help recording the sincere affection which my dear Hannah felt for this kind family. She enjoyed much pleasure in their company; and seldom, if ever, passed their door, without stepping in: and I believe the esteem was mutual. She was always a welcome visitor; and was never permitted, if they could help it, to leave them, without some refreshment. It was to this friendly and hospitable family, that she made her last village visit, when the hand of death was upon her. In returning home (the distance is about a mile and a half) she was

more than once obliged to rest; and when she arrived, she complained of great weariness; and never after this day, went out of the house.

To all her neighbours, she was kind and affable. She affected no airs of superiority; nor did the notice she took of them wear the aspect of condescension. She was not, at one time, conversable and pleasant; and, at another, cold and distant; but always wore the same cheerful countenance. At her death, every one seemed to have lost a friend. Even the aged and infirm, who saunter in the village in search of something to occupy a wearisome hour, had always found in her a good-natured creature, who would stop, and say, "How do you do?" and listen to their complaints; and express a sympathy in their troubles; talk about the weather, and wish them better. But now they look in vain for her, at the customary hour of her walks; and feel that they have lost another of their little comforts, and the village, one of its most agreeable attractions; for

they said, " she made the place look so cheerful."

Perhaps nothing can place the general estimation, in which my dear daughter was held in a stronger light, than the feeling and interest, which her last illness and death occasioned in the neighbourhood. When she was considered to be in danger, the numerous and anxious enquiries, which were made at our own house, and still more so, at the house of our medical attendant, and of himself, whenever he left the death-bed of his patient, were exceedingly affecting: and during the last three or four days of her illness, when her situation was known to be most critical, and it was desirable to have his constant attendance; the whole of his patients, as by one consent (except in a few cases of emergency) forbore to send for him, that his undivided attention might be given to my beloved daughter. On the day of her interment the spectacle was truly affecting. So deep an interest had not perhaps been felt in the village for many years: and in the crowded concourse, as-

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satisfied in the control of the situation. I
 returned from Paris. In the month follow-
 ing her funeral, the church presented an in-
 teresting aspect. I think ever one who takes
 the pains of visiting it, not only to
 behold the tomb of their mother, but also to
 find in the face of one whose life is history
 esteemed. And here I can scarcely
 mention an incident, which is of no other
 importance than in showing how little we
 are aware of the happenings which our careless
 observation may sometimes have on our
 own particular case; and how touching, in
 individuals, the most trivial things may be
 under peculiar circumstances. When my
 daughter was lying on her dying pillow, I was
 without the least apprehension of anything
 either on her part or on mine, she was lying in
 her mother's bed, the window of a milliner, in
 the village, was filled with articles of new dress,
 and wondered how she could expect to be
 small a place, and convenient for such. On
 the day of my daughter's funeral, my dear
 wife was disappointed of some articles of
 dress from London, necessary for the mourn-

ful occasion; and recollecting the observation just alluded to, she sent to the village milliner for a supply; but every article had been pre-occupied by others, for the purpose of expressing their sorrow at the death of her, who had so lately wondered how they could possibly be disposed of!

I have thus endeavoured to give a faithful delineation of the character of my beloved daughter; and an idea of the esteem and affection in which she was held by her relatives, friends and neighbours. I must now proceed to a more affecting part of my narrative; and disclose what passed in the concluding stage of life.

For a considerable time, previous to the attack, which terminated in the death of my dear child, she had been far from well. But such was the natural liveliness of her disposition, and her anxiety not to give uneasiness to her friends, that scarcely any would have supposed she was not enjoying excellent health, except those who were almost constantly with her, and from whom it

was impossible, at all times, to conceal her weakness and pain. Her friends, however, who saw her only at distant intervals, marked a gradual change in her countenance, and wasting of substance : and more than once mentioned their suspicions, that she was not enjoying that degree of health, which we seemed to imagine. I was, indeed, aware that something was wrong ; and I frequently enquired respecting her health ; but she always made so light of what she felt, and maintained such an almost uninterrupted flow of cheerfulness, that I could not persuade myself any thing was materially out of order. Medical men, were however, at different times consulted ; but they never apprehended any thing of the least serious nature ; and gave only such medicines as the incidental symptoms seemed to require.

In July of last year, as I have before mentioned, she accompanied us in a visit to Lincolnshire ; where we left her for a few weeks, to enjoy more of the society of her friends than we could afford to ourselves. She returned in August ; but we were dis-

tressed to find that her health had been considerably affected by an attack of one of those diseases, to which that part of the county is incident. But the malady apparently soon gave way ; and she resumed her accustomed cheerfulness. I collect, however, from those, who were best acquainted with the interior of my daughter, that she never after completely recovered her strength. Some secret mischief, it is now evident, was going on within, committing its slow, but certain ravages ; and was ready to burst forth, with resistless violence, at a moment, when we least expected it.

It was in this precarious state of health, that, in the beginning of April last, she paid the visit, which I before mentioned, to her friends in Guildford Street ; and which was the last out of Chobham, she ever made. On this occasion she had the pleasure of dining with our dear friends Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, at Mr. B.'s. Mr. W. was struck with the difference in her present appearance, from the flush of health, in which he last saw her ; and expressed his regret to see her look

so reduced in substance, and with so little of her former colour. She made, as usual, light of her indisposition, and shewed her accustomed cheerfulness and vivacity. She was exceedingly gratified with this opportunity of enjoying the society of Mr. and Mrs. W. and expressed to us, in strong language, the sense she entertained of their kindness, in pressing her to pay them a visit. On the Sunday following, she heard Mr. Wilson at St. John's; and was so deeply impressed with his evening sermon, that she wrote us an account of it; and said she hoped that impression would never be erased. On her return home, she many times alluded to this discourse; and I believe it was the occasion of her coming to a more determined resolution than ever, to devote her future days, unreservedly and entirely to the service of God. She had, while in London, purchased a few ornaments of dress; but she said to her mother, in shewing them, that she thought she should never wear them. The vanity of the world, and the value of the soul, and the importance of living for eternity,

seemed to occupy her whole attention : and had it pleased God to protract her days, I am persuaded that every thing else would have received a very subordinate portion of her thoughts and cares. I cannot but connect, in a considerable degree, with this sermon of Mr. W. her very vivid perceptions, in her last illness, of the infinite stake she had in its issue. The messenger of death so soon arresting her, after this renewed and solemn dedication of herself to God, filled her with apprehension that, as she had not yet accomplished all that her awakened feelings suggested ought to have been done, nothing had hitherto been done to purpose ; and that her former profession of religion had been insincere.

It was but a few days after her return from this visit, that my dear daughter was seized with her last illness ; and as I have now brought her memorial down to the awful and affecting crisis, I wish to say a few things for the purpose of preparing the mind for what then took place.

I know not whether the facts I have to

relate on this occasion, were at all novel or extraordinary ; but standing, as I did, in so near a relation to them, and having so deep an interest in the issue ; and not having before met with a case of a similar kind, I wish to dwell with some particularity upon it ; and some preliminary observations seem proper to prepare the way for the narration.

It will have been observed that my dear daughter had enjoyed considerable advantages, as it regards a pious education. She had been watched over, with great care, at that period, when impressions are most easily made, and are likely to become most permanent. The weeds of a corrupt nature were not suffered to grow and luxuriate ; but were plucked out, as far as human efforts could avail, as soon as they made their appearance. The enemy was not permitted, if her parents could prevent it, either to sow tares among the wheat ; or to carry away the good seed. The mind was early stored with the most important truths ; and the memory furnished with the most useful lessons ; and all

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were followed up with many prayers for the divine blessing. During the whole of her life, she was ever under parental inspection; or that of pious relatives and instructors: nor had she ever been exposed to the dangers and temptations of an ensnaring world. She had regularly passed through all the stages of a religious education: and perhaps not a single ordinance of religion had ever been omitted, which she had a proper opportunity of attending. It is highly probable that she never was absent, during her whole life, from a place of worship, when she ought to have been there; never neglected a single sacrament, after she first approached the sacred altar; never spent a Sabbath, in the omission of religious duties; nor suffered a day to pass without reading the Scriptures and private devotion. Upon this culture, God had granted his blessing. He moistened the seed with the dews of his grace, and gave the promise of a productive harvest: and our beloved daughter grew up under our care, "like a tree, in a well-watered garden."

She seemed to promise all that the most anxious parents could reasonably expect or wish. She was amiable, pious and devoted. She had come to the cross of Christ, as affording the only hope to perishing sinners; and all her dependence was placed there. She "looked upon him, whom she had pierced, and mourned because of him;" and whilst she humbled herself at his footstool, she received his salvation with a grateful heart; and earnestly desired to give up herself to his service. Her general frame of mind corresponded with this humble reliance on the atoning sacrifice. In honour, she preferred others before herself; and scarcely thought any so much in need of a Saviour as she was. In the closet; in the family; in the sanctuary, she was uniform and consistent. Her most beloved associates were those, who feared God, and hated sin: and she dreaded the idea of coming in contact with the wicked. She loved those sermons best, which came closest to the conscience; and among her friends, she most esteemed those, from whom she received the most

faithful admonitions.* She was diligent in self-examination ; watchful against sinful tempers ; and circumspect in her deportment. In her, were combined, “ whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ;” and, had it pleased our heavenly Father to call her away at any period, her friends could have entertained no reasonable doubt of her having been transferred to a better world. I do not, indeed, assert that these qualities, in my dear daughter, were unmixed with those of a contrary nature ; or that any of them were free from imperfection. Such a representation would be as inconsistent with her own consciousness of innumerable sins both of omission and commission, and the expressions of deep humiliation, which she continually uttered, during her last illness ; as it would be at

On a late occasion, she said to her mother : “ I love both the Miss B.’s very much ; but I think I prefer Miss M. (the younger)—*she is so faithful.*”


variance with the plainest declarations of Scripture, and our general knowledge of character. But what I mean to assert is this, that there was such a *predominance* of what was truly Christian, moral and amiable in her character, as clearly to shew that “ she had been renewed in the spirit of her mind ;” and was an ornament to her Christian profession. It might therefore be expected, perhaps, that, in her case, death would have been divested of his terrors, and that she would have passed through the mortal conflict, if not with triumph, at least with calmness and composure. But the contrary of this actually took place. When “ the King of Terrors” first presented himself, she was filled with dreadful consternation ; and shrunk back with horror from the awful conflict. She was agitated with such an internal tempest, as I had never before witnessed ; and no sinking mariner ever clung to the last plank with so much eagerness, as she did to the cross of Christ. All around her seemed a wide waste of desolation. The billows rolled. Deep called to deep ; and “ all hope

that she should be saved was taken away," except as this cross afforded her a stay. Never can I forget this awful moment. We were like persons standing on the shore, beholding the storm, but incapable of affording any assistance. All that we most loved and cherished, and almost adored, was tossed on the tempestuous waves. Our hearts failed us. We directed, we encouraged, we exhorted. We pointed to the hand of Omnipotence, stretched forth for her deliverance; and said, be of good courage! We entreated her to take fast hold of it, and assured her she was safe. We pledged our life that there was no danger; and told her it was impossible she could perish;—that she was just on shore; and that angels were waiting to welcome her arrival in the haven of rest! But—O! the infinite stake she had in the event of a single moment! an eternal separation from her dearest friends, or an indissoluble union: the society of "angels and the spirits of the just, of Jesus the Mediator, and of God the Judge of all;" or, of unbelievers, and hypocrites, and charac-

ters whom she most feared and abhorred, and of evil angels and the Prince of Darkness : the loss of all she loved and desired ; and the exchange for it, of all she hated and dreaded : the possession of heaven, and its riches and its glories ; or the endurance of eternal sorrow, where hope never comes : these—were the awful alternatives which were just before her, and hung upon the next breath, and agitated her even to an agony. It is true, indeed, that this storm, afterwards subsided ; and a peaceful calm ensued. She was enabled to take a more quiet view of what lay before her ; and to derive comfort from the gracious promises of the gospel : but still, it must excite surprise in many that she was ever thus agitated and agonized : and such will naturally enquire what could occasion to one, whom they would consider as an almost spotless character, such fearful anticipations of the future ; such dread of being lost for ever. Whilst others, who have heard much of the joyful and triumphant deaths of Christians, may think it extraordinary that her sun should go

down under a cloud; and may be led to suspect that the bitter reflections she made on herself, were but too well grounded on the real state of her mind. A few observations will remove this mystery; and furnish some useful instruction.

She had just arrived at that period of life, when every thing in this world is calculated to make the strongest impression, and to take the firmest hold on the feelings. Her mind was richly stored with knowledge; and her taste was formed for deriving pleasure from the most simple and natural sources, and which, for this reason, were numerous and within her reach. She enjoyed ample opportunities of adding to her stock of knowledge; and she was eagerly embracing them. She loved her parents, and brothers, and friends with the most ardent affection; and derived from them, all the happiness she could reasonably expect or wish. She was herself a centre of no inconsiderable attraction; and she received and communicated as much happiness as generally falls to the lot of a human being, in



their most favoured circumstances. She was not therefore like a tree, whose roots had been loosened, and branches torn off, by repeated storms and tempests ; or whose trunk had been scathed and shattered with lightning : but, rather, she resembled one, which had been planted in a well watered garden, rich in its foliage, beautiful in its bloom, and bearing the promise of abundant fruit. It was at this moment, that the effects of the worm, which had been for some time corroding the root, became visible : the blossom faded ; the branches withered ; and the hope of the autumn perished. Let then the reader picture to himself my beloved daughter, suddenly required to close her favourite books ; to give a last look at her garden, and the opening spring ; to bid her last farewell to her beloved relatives ; to take her last kiss of her weeping parents ; and to send her last love to her absent brothers* and dis-

* They were at Oxford, when she was taken ill ; and did not reach Chobham, till she had breathed her last.

tant friends ; and will he wonder that she was agitated ?

But this occasioned the least part of the conflict. It will be recollected, that my dear daughter had the highest sense of the importance of religion, and the value of the soul. In a moment, the reality of her profession was put to the test ; and all that eternity presents, either exquisite in enjoyment, or tremendous in suffering was suspended on the result ! The holy law, with its extensive and spiritual requirements, was opened before her : the dreadful sentence of death, awaiting the least violation of its demands, was sounding in her ears : her sensitive mind, and acute perception of right and wrong, suggesting innumerable deficiencies ; duties omitted, or languidly performed ; resolutions forgotten, or feebly executed ; the sacraments, the public ordinances of religion, family worship and private devotion, — each reminding her of coldness of affection, wandering of thought, or listless indifference : nothing done as it ought to have been done ; and ten thousand things done, which ought

not to have been done : with all these things passing in rapid succession before the mind, and bearing along with them consequences to which the imagination itself can fix no limit ; and the whole involved in a single moment, and hanging on the next breath, and bursting, with the suddenness of a thunder-clap, on her astonished soul ! — will it be thought extraordinary that she trembled ? that she looked fearfully around for help ? that she cried, “ Save, Lord, or I perish ? Reader ! this is no imaginary scene ! It was presented before the mind of my dear daughter ; and it will, most probably, be presented before thine, if it be awake, as it ought to be, when eternity opens before thee ! O, lose no time in preparing for it, and securing a place of refuge ! This, I humbly thank God, my beloved daughter had done ; but in the suddenness and hurry of the occasion, her mind was bewildered ; the storm occupied her whole attention ; the vessel was dreadfully agitated ; and, though the Saviour was in it, like the disciples, on another occa-

sion, she was greatly alarmed, and thought she must perish.

It is at times like this, that the importance of a close, and somewhat familiar acquaintance with the kind and compassionate character of Jesus Christ, and a persuasion of an interest in his merits, is chiefly seen. There may be a firm reliance on the atoning sacrifice; a sincere devotedness of heart to the service of God, and an habitual predominance of holy affections towards him: and yet such an awful perception of the distance between the humble individual, and the infinitely glorious God, as to preclude all "joy and peace in believing." And when a natural timidity of disposition, and a keen perception of religious deficiencies are connected with this profound reverence, there must necessarily arise great doubt and distrust in peculiar emergencies; and, especially, in the near prospect of dissolution. Nothing, we know, is so suitable to a weak and sinful being, as the "humble and contrite heart, which trembles at the divine word;" and

such, we are assured, are the peculiar objects of God's favour; but yet, there is a close affinity between this state of mind, and anxious fear: and nothing but a most vivid perception and persuasion of our personal interest in the sufferings of Christ for the sins of mankind, can overcome the feeling of personal guilt and unworthiness. When therefore these things do not accompany each other (and there is no *necessary* connection between them) the most excellent Christian may be brought into great doubt, and even despondency: whilst at the same time, he may be in perfect safety, and high in the favour of God.

The difference between *faith* and *hope* is not always sufficiently attended to; and much presumption on the one hand, and despondency on the other, have arisen from confounding them. One person considers himself a believer of high attainments, because he entertains no doubt of his being in a state of salvation: and another doubts whether he be a believer at all, because he cannot persuade himself that his sins are forgiven.

But it is obvious that two distinct and very different acts of the mind are here confounded and blended together;—one, which assents to the fact of Jesus Christ being the only and all-sufficient Saviour of sinners; and which places a reliance on the atoning sacrifice, for pardon of sin and acceptance with God, which is the province of *faith*: and another, which appropriates to itself the blessings of this salvation, and confidently expects a future state of felicity, which is the province of *hope*. Now it is clear that these persuasions of the mind may exist separately from each other; and that one of them may be very strong; whilst the other has scarcely any existence at all. Nor is it, in point of fact, uncommon to find Christians, who have no doubt whatever of the ability and willingness of Christ to save sinners, and who come to him alone for salvation; and yet are subject to distressing fears lest they should not be partakers of the blessings of the gospel. I recollect a striking instance of the truth of this remark, in the case of a late eminent Christian mi-

nister. For a long time, previous to his death, he laboured under a morbid affection of the nerves, which sometimes brought him to the very verge of despondency ; and on one occasion, he said to me : “ My conviction of the truth of these things (laying his hand on the Bible) is stronger now, than it ever was : but I have no interest in them.” Had this excellent man died in this state of mind, no one could have reasonably doubted of his safety, for the obvious reason that he exercised the fullest faith in Christ ; and had shewn its genuine character, in a holy and most useful life ; though he denied that he had any hope of ultimately sharing in the blessings of salvation. The “ full assurance of hope,” is indeed an invaluable privilege ; and cannot be too earnestly desired ; but it is no where stated in scripture as essential to our future happiness, as faith is : and a person may be a genuine Christian, without the former ; though not without the latter. (Mark xvi. 16.)

This distinction between faith and hope is also confirmed by the fact, that it is the

duty of all men to believe in Jesus Christ; but it is not the duty of all to be persuaded that they shall be ultimately benefited by him. This persuasion must depend on certain facts; and it will vary greatly at different times, and under different circumstances. So far from being required at all times, to consider ourselves partakers of the benefits of Christ's atonement, as we are at all times, to exercise faith in him, it would often be the highest degree of presumption to do so; and many, who boast of their safety, ought rather to be alarmed for their danger. The flip-pant assertions, which many professing Christians make of their certainty of obtaining eternal salvation, often grieve the minds of more thoughtful men. It is but too evident, in many cases, that this confidence rests on no Christian or reasonable foundation. They have received an impression; or they have had a dream; or some text of scripture has crossed their mind; or something within them has suggested the thought: and these are considered as resulting from the agency of the Holy Spirit, and as indications of the

divine favour. I should be afraid to intimate that every thing of this kind is to be ascribed to imbecility of mind, or an over-heated imagination; because this would be to limit the operations of the Spirit; and to contradict some very remarkable facts: but, considering how liable such impressions are to be misunderstood; the suspicious causes, from which they often arise; the readiness with which Satan might produce them, by “transforming himself into an Angel of Light;” the numerous cases, in which they have been known to be delusive; and the door they open to the most extravagant enthusiasm, I think they should be received with extreme caution; and carry along with them the clear stamp and impress of the finger of God before they are credited: and that, instead of expecting them in the ordinary course of divine dispensations, we should rather look to the plain, scriptural evidences of a state of grace; and found our hopes of personal safety on the correspondence of our own state and character with those infallible tests. In this way, we may reasonably ex-

pect the Holy Spirit to direct our attention to appropriate passages of scripture ; to enlighten our understanding, to comprehend their meaning ; and to dispose our hearts to embrace them. Thus, whilst our faith relies upon the atoning sacrifice for pardon of sin, and acceptance with God ; our hope will repose on an immoveable foundation ; and as “ an anchor of the soul, it will enter within the vail,” and sustain it under the storms of life, and in the last conflict with death. It is, I apprehend, generally, in this way, that the experienced Christian is, at length, enabled to say with the veteran Apostle, “ I know whom I have believed ; and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him, against that day.”

These remarks will satisfactorily account for the state of my dear daughter's mind, when she first apprehended that she was on the verge of eternity. She never, for a moment doubted of the power and willingness of Christ to save sinners ; but on the contrary, believed that he is “ able to save, to the uttermost, all that come unto God by

him ;" nay, she had confided her soul to his keeping, and renounced all hope of salvation but through him ; and therefore she possessed a genuine faith : but she was not prepared for the sudden emergency ; nor, had she ever yet, though the thoughts of death were scarcely ever absent from her mind, contemplated death as actually commissioned to bring her immediately into the presence of her Judge. When therefore the awful summons was given, she was thrown into alarm : the infinite consequences, suspended on a single breath, almost overwhelmed her ; and the consciousness that she had fallen very far short of what her own exalted ideas of the Christian character ought to be, induced her to call in question the sincerity of her profession, and the reality of her religion. These distressing fears were also augmented by the very resolutions she had recently formed of giving up herself entirely to the service of God. She had resolved, and that within a few days previous to her last illness, to make the " One thing needful," the object of her

exclusive care; to throw up every trifling pursuit; and to devote every member of her body, and faculty of her mind to the service of Him, who demanded, and who, she felt, deserved the whole heart: but before this holy purpose could be fully accomplished, she was arrested by the hand of Death: and because so little of her future plan had been executed, she concluded she had hitherto done nothing; and having fallen so far short of the standard she proposed, she doubted the very existence of religion in the heart. Hence, she could view herself in no other light, than the chief of sinners; no prayer seemed to suit her case, but that of the Publican; nor could she derive any hope, but from the promise of mercy to the greatest offenders. She was then, it is true, "poor in spirit;" but this did not exclude her from "the kingdom of heaven;" nor, if the spirit had actually taken its flight in the agonizing struggle to lay and keep hold of the cross of Christ, would she, on this account, have been spurned from the pre-

sence of the compassionate Saviour. But I must proceed to the awful and affecting crisis.

The apparent commencement of her last illness, was on Sunday, the twentieth of April. While at church, in the morning, she was seized with shivering ; but, apprehending no serious consequences, she attended again, in the evening ; nor was I made acquainted with her indisposition, till the following day. On Monday morning, she commenced a letter to her much beloved friend Miss Tyler ; but laid it aside, after writing four or five lines ; and this last fragment of her writing, which her affectionate friend wished to possess as a sacred memorial of one, whom she held in no common esteem, bears marks of her indisposition, as it appears to be written in a less firm and even character than her usual letters. She afterwards took the walk, of which I have before made mention, to her esteemed neighbour Mrs. Rogers ; and on her arrival there, she appeared fatigued and thirsty. She was exceedingly exhausted on

her return home; and I was then informed of her illness. On feeling the pulse, I perceived she had a good deal of fever; but I apprehended no other serious consequences than such as usually proceed from a severe cold. She retired somewhat earlier than usual to rest; and I gave her a dose of James's powders, at the same time, desiring her to put her feet into warm water. This produced a copious perspiration; and the next morning, she seemed to be considerably relieved. Still the fever was by no means removed; I therefore repeated on Tuesday and the following day (for she was unwilling that I should call in our medical attendant) such medicines as appeared to me likely to remove her indisposition; and on Thursday she appeared to be so much better, as to need no further medicine. The pulse was good, and natural; she came down stairs, sat up the greater part of the day, and was exceedingly cheerful. She felt, however, towards evening, great weariness; and when I took leave of her at night, I perceived that her pulse had again very much quickened, and

the fever had returned. She spent a restless night ; and finding her much indisposed in the morning, I told her that, though I saw nothing alarming in her case, yet I did not think it prudent any longer to prescribe for her myself : and, after some hesitation, she consented to my calling in our medical attendant. She had several times, in the course of the last two days, asked me if she was in danger ; and seemed anxiously alive to every indication of our feelings, either by word or countenance ; so that it was peculiarly necessary to proceed with caution to prevent alarm.

On feeling her pulse, Mr. T. Ives enquired whether she had been delirious during the preceding night. At this question she was evidently alarmed ; and after telling him that her head had never been in the least affected, she asked him whether he thought she was in danger. On his smiling at her question, and assuring her that there was nothing serious in her case, she resumed her usual composure and cheerfulness. There was, however, something very unusual in her pulse, from the

commencement of her illness. At various periods, in the progress of it, it was at the rate of from 130 to 150, and yet she never experienced the least delirium, or had any local fixed pain. When, at a later period of her disease, Mr. Ives, the father of our medical friend, first offered us the benefit of his extensive practice and well-known skill, in aid of the kind attentions of his son; he said, that, on taking hold of her hand, he instinctively withdrew his finger from the frightful pulse.

After two days' attendance of Mr. T. Ives, the disease seemed, a second time, to yield to his treatment; and we had sanguine hopes that his patient would soon be convalescent: but after the greater part of a day had passed under encouraging prospects, she again relapsed; and the symptoms returned with unabated violence. It was then deemed expedient to use the lancet; and after the same period of two days, the pulse again became almost natural; and my beloved daughter, as well as ourselves, anticipated a speedy recovery; but our hopes were, a third time,

disappointed ; for after nearly another whole day's improvement, her pulse resumed its former rapidity. These intermissions in her malady confirmed me in the opinion I had entertained from her first relapse, that she was labouring under the disease, with which several of her Lincolnshire friends had been recently afflicted, of whom we had lately heard, that they had had three or four attacks of what is there well known by the name of an *intermittent* : and I was the more disposed to draw this conclusion, from the fact of her having returned, last autumn, from Lincolnshire, with this disease upon her. I was therefore very sanguine in my expectations, that this illness would neither be fatal, nor of long continuance. In the former of these hopes, alas ! I have been most afflictingly disappointed. The hand of death was upon my dear daughter, when the worst I feared was a lingering recovery from an intermitting fever. The malady, however yielded, a fourth time, to medicine ; and a fourth time it resumed its accustomed violence.

A fortnight had now nearly elapsed

since she had been confined to the house. Her enquiries, during this period, were frequent, whether danger were apprehended; and the answers she received were always encouraging, for the obvious reason, that no one anticipated any other than a favourable result. I did, however, more than once, intimate to my beloved child, that it would be presumption to say that, where there is disease, there is no danger: and that we must look up to God, with whom alone are the issues of life, to bless the means made use of for her recovery: but that, humanly speaking, there were no symptoms in her case, which did not seem to be under the control of medicine; and that we had the best reasons for trusting that the issue would correspond with all our wishes. Every day, I believe, during this fortnight, either I or her mother read to her some portion of scripture; and, as she could not join in our family worship, I always prayed by the side of her bed, when we retired to rest. Perceiving that she entertained distressing fears of death, I took every opportunity of indirectly suggesting such thoughts as were most likely to

remove this dread. Having had occasion, one of these days, to visit a sick neighbour, of whose religious state I had reason to hope well, but who was exceedingly afraid lest she should not be saved; I mentioned the case to my daughter; and repeated the arguments I had used, and the passages of scripture I had quoted to administer comfort; hoping, in this way, to impart instruction and consolation to my beloved child. She listened with eager attention; but made no reply. As soon, however, as I was gone out of the room, she said to her mother, "I don't wonder that Mrs. — is alarmed: it is an awful thing to die!" On the first Sunday evening after her confinement to her bed, I repeated to her a few of the particulars of the sermon I had been preaching, on the twenty-third Psalm; and dwelt, somewhat at large, on the security and comfort, which those enjoy, who have the Lord for their guide and support, when walking "through the valley of the shadow of Death." On the the same day, my dear wife read to her the fifty-third chapter of

Isaiah; and when she had finished, my daughter exclaimed, "What a beautiful chapter!" This led to a conversation between them, on the atonement of Christ, and to some observations on an individual, whom they both greatly loved and esteemed, but who, it was feared, did not entertain scriptural views of this fundamental doctrine. Her mother expressed a hope that this friend would still obtain salvation; on which my daughter replied, with apparent surprise, "Why mother, is there any *other* way?" It was answered, that she knew of no other; but that she trusted, the individual would be brought to receive this doctrine, before death. I mention this to shew, that she had no idea that salvation could be obtained, in any other way than through the atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ; and that all her dependence was upon him. During this period of her illness, she often expressed her earnest desire that she might be restored to health, that she might reduce into practice, the plans she had formed, for devoting herself more unreservedly to the service of Christ. She spoke of the impressive

sermon she had heard from Mr. Wilson, when in London, a few Sundays before ; and seemed to think nothing of importance, but a serious attention to the " one thing needful." She was apparently in an almost constant spirit of prayer ; and seemed to enjoy no conversation, so much as that which related to sacred subjects. She was, however, generally cheerful, and never uttered a single complaint. At times, indeed, her natural playfulness of temper stole upon her ; and she made some observations which occasioned those around her to smile, and to make rejoinders on her pleasantry. She soon, however, recollected herself ; and told me, that she was exceedingly grieved at what appeared to her to border on levity. She said " I thought I was getting better, and then I allowed myself to talk foolishly. O, how I fear, she added, if I am restored to health, that these serious impressions will wear away !" During a considerable portion of two days, in the second week of her illness, her mother was confined to her bed, by one of her distressingly painful sick head.

ashes. On her return to the chamber of her daughter, it is not easy to describe the joy of my beloved child. "O, mother! she exclaimed, I think I never before so rejoiced to see you: the very sight of you does me so much good, that I could now fancy I am almost well." And here, I may remark, that her affection for her parents was intense. Frequently, in the midst of her sufferings, would she express the tenderest regard. She could not restrain the emotion of her mind, when she saw our distress; and in various endearing ways, shewed the goings forth of her heart towards us. Her affection also was manifested in a striking manner, towards her aunt Samuel. From the time of her aunt first visiting my dear daughter, she scarcely ever left the sick room; but night and day waited upon her, with a degree of self-possession; quick perception of what was wanted; dexterity in every necessary sick-room arrangement; ever wakeful attention to the very looks of her beloved niece, and cheerfulness of countenance and manner, which I never saw equalled; and which I think it scarcely possible to be

surpassed. . She became so necessary to my dear child's comfort, that the very short intervals of her absence, for the purpose of obtaining a little rest and sleep, were sensibly felt by my daughter; and happy was it for her, that her aunt could as ill endure absence from her beloved patient, as she could, from her aunt. It affords unspeakable comfort to me and my dear wife, in the recollection of the distressing scene, through which we have passed, that nearly from the time, in which we first apprehended danger to the last crisis, our beloved daughter enjoyed the society, and affectionate attentions of one, whom, next to her parents and brothers, she probably loved above all others; and who performed for her much more than the agitated feelings of her parents would have permitted them to do.

It was not till Sunday, the fourth of May, that we began seriously to apprehend danger. In the morning of that day, she appeared considerably better; and we went to church, leaving her in the care of a servant, in the hope of finding her still improved, on our

return. But immediately, on entering the house, after church, the servant apprized us that Miss Jerram was not so well as when we left her. We hastened to her chamber, and found her breathing with great difficulty, and with a pulse exceedingly rapid and fluttering. She said that, soon after we were gone, a dimness came across her eyes, so that she could scarcely distinguish objects; and she had a sensation at her chest, which, at times, almost prevented her breathing: and, what had greatly added to her distress, she was unable to call the servant. She stated that, at one time, she thought she was dying; and had waited with the greatest anxiety for our return. I immediately called in Mr. T. Ives, and perceived his alarm, on feeling her pulse. Nor did his fears escape the watchful eye of my daughter: and she eagerly asked, if she was in danger. He made as light of the affair as he could; and succeeded, in some measure, in abating her fears. He thought it proper again to have recourse to the lancet, and she cheerfully submitted to

the operation ; but alas ! no apparent benefit resulted from this measure ; and it was impossible for me any longer to close my eyes against the danger, which impended my dear child. Feelings which I will not attempt to describe now agitated and almost overwhelmed me. It is my custom, in the afternoon of the first Sunday of every month, to catechize the children of the Sunday School publicly in the church. I went as usual : but I was unable to proceed with my task, and I gave notice that there would be no evening service. The idea that our dear and only daughter, the delight of our eyes, and the joy of our heart ; who had been cherished and brought up with the tenderest affection ; who had become all, and more than all that we could have reasonably expected ; the constant and delightful companion of all our domestic and social pleasures, and our principal hope of earthly comfort for years to come, was about to be torn from us, in the spring of her days, and the bloom of life, produced indescribable yearnings of heart ; and, for a time, incapacitated me

for the discharge of any duty. I immediately sent a hasty messenger to Staines, to call in the assistance of Dr. Pope; and to inform my brother Samuel and his wife of the dangerous state of my dearest child. During the afternoon of this day, the alarming symptoms still continued; but every effort was made to conceal them from the beloved patient: and it affected me exceedingly to see the cheerful smile, which still continued to sit on her countenance. From the first hour of her malady, to the last moment of it, so far as respected her illness, she never, I believe, uttered a single impatient word, nor betrayed a single dissatisfied feeling; so that every one, who was admitted into the sick room, felt a delight in being present with her.

In the evening of this day Dr. Pope arrived, and evidently saw much danger in the case of his patient; but I am disposed to think, that with all the advantages of a course of practice extended beyond that of most physicians; and of his long-tried and well-known ability, he did not discover the cause

of her malady; and it remains, I believe, a mystery to the present day. It does not fall within my province to make remarks on the nature of her disease; and therefore I dismiss this subject, by stating that all that seemed possible in this case, was to treat the symptoms as they occurred; and every thing, which medical skill and unwearied attention could accomplish, was done for my beloved child. On the evening also of this day Mr. Ives, of Chertsey, the father of our medical friend, called to see her, and slept that night in the house, as he most kindly continued to do, during her few remaining days. It was indeed a great satisfaction to our anxious minds thus to have constantly at hand three most able medical attendants, one or more of whom was always with her, at this critical period.

On Monday morning, she appeared somewhat better; and during the greater part of the day, the symptoms of her disease were so much kept in check, that our hopes again revived that she might still do well; and her own spirits were sustained in an extraordi-

nary manner, so as to enable her to maintain an almost uninterrupted cheerfulness. In my conversation and prayer with her, I avoided, as much as possible, alarming her fears; but still I endeavoured to direct her views to the blessed Saviour; and made such general remarks as appeared most likely to sustain her mind, should the conflict, which I so much dreaded, be at hand. She slept the former part of the following night, and till nearly five, the next morning. She awoke with the sense of numbness, in one of her legs; and she immediately exclaimed — “ I am dying ! ” Mr. Ives was sleeping in his clothes, in the adjoining room, and was with her, in an instant. Without being apprized of her situation, I was proceeding, at about half-past five, to enquire after her health, when I was met by Mr. Ives, before I entered the room, who said “ Miss Jerram is not quite so well as she has been. She seems, in her sleep, to have pressed upon some particular nerve of the thigh, which has produced numbness, and thrown her into a good deal of alarm ! ” This was kindly intended to prepare me for

what I should witness, on entering the chamber; and I endeavoured, as much as possible, to conceal my anguish of mind. I approached the sick bed, and found her aunt, on one side, and a servant on the other, rubbing her hands; and a third, at the bottom, performing the same office on her feet. There needed no interpreter of this process. On looking at my dearest child, I perceived her breathing with great difficulty: alarm was depicted in her countenance; and she fixed her eye upon me, in a way that I will not attempt to describe. The fearful result rushed on my mind with such violence, as to render me incapable of disguising what was passing within: and I have no correct recollection of what I either said or did at this dreadful moment. This was the commencement of a day the most distressing which I had ever experienced. "My soul hath it still in remembrance, and is humbled in me." Not that it was a day of unmixed darkness and distress: there was much in it, to call forth the most grateful recollections; and to excite thankful acknowledgments to the Father of Mercies. But if there is any

thing agonizing to the mind of a parent, in seeing a beloved and only daughter, whom he had, alas ! idolized to an extent of which he had hitherto no idea, in the apparent convulsive struggle of death, for many hours ; with a mind, during the greater part of this time, labouring under intense apprehensions of what might be the final result of the fearful conflict : if there is any thing overwhelming in the idea that this parent had to sustain, by the precious promises of the gospel his almost desponding daughter ; and to animate her, under the apprehension of immediate dissolution, with the hope of a crown of glory and an imperishable inheritance, just at hand ; and this, at a time, when his own heart was ready to break with the dread of being immediately bereaved of his child, whom he loved more than his own life ; then may I have occasion to bear in mind this memorable day, with no ordinary emotions. I will, however, proceed to give as correct a detail of it, as my still agitated mind enables me to recollect ; premising that it is only a part of what took place, that I can state ;

and even that part, not perhaps, in the exact order and time when it took place; or in the precise words, in which every thing was said.

After the first emotions had, in some degree, subsided, my daughter said, "I am dying—O pray for me, father!" I replied, "I hope not, my dear. God is all-sufficient; and he can raise you up again. Don't be alarmed." I perceived however, that the agony of her mind was great, and I said all that my hurried feelings would allow, to compose her. I dwelt on the encouraging promises of the gospel; and endeavoured to set before her "the loving-kindness of the Lord," in sending his Son to be a propitiation for our sins. I directed her to the cross of Christ, on which our sins were expiated; and assured her, that none were ever rejected, who placed their dependence there. "Yes," she replied, but when he called, I refused; and now, when I call, he will reject me." "You have altogether mistaken, I said, the application of the awful passage of Scripture (Prov. i. 24, &c.) to which you allude. It refers to characters, who have hardened them-

selves in iniquity ; who have turned a deaf ear to God, when calling them by his word and his providence to repentance, and who have refused to be reformed : they had “ set at nought all his counsel, and despised all his reproof.” Beside, I said, supposing your views of yourself to be correct, you must recollect that the gospel offers pardon to “ the chief of sinners :” that the Saviour declares, “ him that cometh unto me, I will in *no-wise* cast out ;” and God has said “ though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow ; and though they be red, like crimson, they shall be as wool.” As she still refused comfort, and charged herself with insincerity in her profession of religion, I continued to repeat such passages of Scripture as offer encouragement and assurance of mercy to the greatest offenders. I reminded her of the Publican, who smote upon his breast, and cried, God be merciful to me a sinner ; and who went down to his house pardoned and justified. In this emergency, it did not seem expedient to dispute the point, whether she was really the character, which, in this

moment of alarm, she considered herself; but admitting it to be, to the full extent, as her fears had cruelly misrepresented and distorted it, I thought it best to shew her, that the gospel has made abundant provision for the pardon and acceptance of all who come unto God by Christ: and that none would be rejected, who "have fled for refuge, to lay hold of the hope set before them." Her mind seemed, for a moment, to be relieved by these passages of scripture; but she soon replied: "I do not feel any love for Jesus Christ." I replied, "your feeling, at this time, so little love to the Saviour, arises from your fears that he will reject you. If you were assured that he loves you, and has forgiven your sins; should you not then love him?" "O yes, O yes," she said, indeed I should!" "Well, my dear, I replied, the reason why any of us love him, is, because "he first loved us;" and the moment you cease to put away from you his gracious promises of pardon, you will be filled with love and gratitude to him. During the whole of this conversation, her eyes were continually lifted up towards hea-

ven : and though her labouring breath scarcely permitted her to articulate a single sentence, and her pulse could now with difficulty be felt, yet she kept urging the Publican's prayer, " God be merciful to me a sinner ;" and appeared, at times, in an agony, lest her suit should be rejected. There was occasion about this time, to give her some liquid, to support her sinking frame ; and in putting the spoon to her mouth, my feelings instinctively urged me to say, " The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life ; Drink this, in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be thankful." She received the cordial, with the greatest solemnity ; and seemed to lift up her heart to God, that she might receive the sacramental blessing. As both our minds became somewhat tranquilized, I entered into a more calm conversation with her on the promises of the gospel. I said, " did Jesus Christ come into the world to call the *righteous* to repentance ?" " O ! no, she replied, he came to call *sinners*, he came to call *sinners* to repentance."

“ You think yourself *lost*.” “ Yes, indeed I do.” — “ Whom did Jesus Christ come to seek and to save ?” “ He came, she said, to seek and to save that which is *lost*.” “ Well, then, do you not think he came to seek and to save *you* ?” “ I *hope*, she replied, I *hope* he did.” “ *Hope* ! I said, it is *certain* he did. He cannot deny himself, and you should not discredit his word. It is unbelief, which rejects comfort, when it is so freely offered ; and you may offend the blessed and compassionate Saviour, by disbelieving his most positive declarations. You seem to think it difficult to believe that God will save sinners ; now I should despair of your being saved, if you did not feel yourself a sinner. You can scarcely admit that the Father of mercies will regard the humble and contrite ; and you think him reluctant to admit such into his favour : but was there any appearance of such unwillingness to be reconciled to us, when he “ gave his only begotten Son” to die for us ?” “ O no !” she replied, “ God so loved the world, that he gave his

only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." "Yes, my love, I replied, and only think how plain and simple an affair faith is. You remember our Lord's own beautiful illustration of it: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." "O yes! O yes! she said, I remember the brazen serpent: those who were perishing with the bite of the serpent, looked at it, and lived. O Lord Jesus Christ, thou wast lifted up on the cross: I look to thee! O suffer me not to perish! O suffer me not to perish!" I then said, "Do you not think, my dearest child, that I most tenderly love you?" "O yes! she said, I am sure you do: kiss me," and she stroked my face, with inexpressible tenderness. "So great, I said, is my love for you, that, if I might be permitted to exchange places with you, I would most gladly die in your stead. Now mark the language of the

holy scriptures: "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." You see your heavenly Father pitieth you, as much as I do: will he then cast you away?" "I hope not! I hope not!" she replied. "You recollect, do you not, the case of Ephraim bemoaning himself, as you do: and what said God in return?" She immediately replied, "Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? and was proceeding with the affecting passage — but her labouring breath would not permit her to finish it. I therefore concluded it, — "since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him: I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord." "Beautiful! beautiful!" she exclaimed. I then mentioned many other passages of scripture, in which mercy is promised to the penitent believer, in the most unlimited and unconditional terms; and added — "you see, my dear, that the whole Bible seems to be written for the encouragement of the humble and penitent; and to meet a case

like yours." I dwelt particularly on the case of the prodigal son, who said " I will arise, and go to my father : " and on the father seeing " him *a long way off*, and *running*, and *falling on his neck*, and *kissing him*." I asked, " does this look like a reluctance on the part of our heavenly Father to receive those, who come to him for mercy ? " " O no ! O no !" she replied : " and, I said, this history is the more remarkable, and encouraging, because our Lord recorded it for the direct purpose of inducing the very worst of characters to come to him, and of setting forth his abundant mercy towards such as do return." She seemed considerably calmed, if not comforted, by this conversation ; and, after some interval, I said, " You have no doubt, my dear, of Jesus Christ being *able* to save to the *uttermost all* that come unto God by him." " O no ! she replied with peculiar emphasis, *none whatever*. I only doubt whether he will save *me*." And then, clasping her hands, in an agony, she prayed, " God be merciful to me, a sinner ! O Lord Jesus

Christ, who wast lifted up upon the cross
to save sinners, do not suffer me to perish!"
She then exclaimed,

Rock of ages, rent for me !
Let me hide myself in thee !

And was endeavouring to proceed with this affecting hymn, with an energy and emphasis I never saw equalled ; — but her breath and her strength failed ; and she could only repeat, with a convulsive sob, here and there a word or two. I therefore read over the whole to her ; and with her hands still closed, and her eyes eagerly lifted up to heaven, she uttered now and then a word after me ; but when I came to the passage —

Nothing in my hand I bring :
Simply to the cross I cling ;

Her whole manner and countenance instantly reminded me of Job's expression—" Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him : " for never did a sinking mariner take faster hold of the last plank, than she seemed to do, upon the

cross. When I proceeded to the following words,

Vile, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Saviour, or I die !

Never shall I forget the effort and vehemence with which she reiterated,

Wash me, Saviour, or I die !

No language, that I am master of, can convey an idea of this affecting scene. All around her bed were dissolved in tears ; and what were the sensations of her parent's breast, others must be left to conceive. When we had, in some degree, recovered ourselves, I proceeded with the hymn ; and again I must leave imagination to supply what I have no words to convey, when I read to my sweetest child, apparently in the last conflict with death, and who also made an effort to repeat almost every word after me ;

While I draw this fleeting breath !
When my eye-strings break in death !

When I soar to worlds unknown,
 See thee, on thy judgment throne :
 Rock of ages ! rent for me,
 Let me hide myself in thee !

During the whole of this time, the self-abasement and deep humiliation of my beloved child, were such as I never before witnessed : and every thing conveyed the idea of a being, utterly bereft of hope, save as the cross of Christ, upon which she held with the firmest grasp, kept her from sinking.

It is not to be supposed that the whole of this conversation, and these efforts, took place, without considerable interruptions. Her bodily frame could not have endured them, for she was gasping for breath, and it was necessary to fan her every moment, to enable her to breathe at all. Her pulse had sunk almost to the last perceptible feeling ; and every breath appeared as the last she could draw. It was about this time that Dr. Pope arrived : and the interest which this kind friend, and experienced physician, took in the state of my dear daughter's mind, as well as her body, demands my warmest thanks,

So far from giving an unseasonable interruption to the solemn transactions, which were passing between the parent and his child, he gave them a direct countenance, and deeply sympathized with the mental sufferings of both. He did not, however, forget his proper office: for though the physical case seemed now almost desperate, yet he availed himself of every means, which his skill could devise, to sustain his sinking patient, and keep alive the dying spark. Nor were they in vain. Some temporary relief was procured; but it was only to be followed, soon after his departure, with agonies still more dreadful. Over this scene, I must draw a veil; only remarking, that for the greater part of an hour, what appeared to be the mortal conflict was carrying on in a way that pierced every breast, in every part of my house, (for in every part, the distressing sounds were heard) with heart-rending grief. During this period, when the power of utterance was given, she often asked "how long?" She said, "this is the valley." She prayed again and again, "Lord Jesus! receive my

spirit! Lord Jesus! receive my spirit!" Two of our medical friends were present, during this awful period; and, as well as ourselves, supposed that every breath might be the last. The syncope however, again, partially subsided; but never so as to give us the slightest hope, till towards evening, that she could, at the longest survive a few hours. She had, during this dreadful period, frequently enquired the hour of the day, for the purpose, as she afterwards told me, of ascertaining how long she probably had to live; for she said she had heard it remarked, that the hours of nine, twelve, three, &c. are those on which death usually takes place: and as each of those hours approached, she expected the conflict to be over. Her mind, however, was evidently now more composed; and the terror of death was, in a great degree, removed. About three o'clock, she was so far relieved, as to be able to look, without dismay, at her approaching dissolution; and as I was standing by her pillow, she desired me (with what emotions, I will not attempt to describe; but still,—considering her in-

tense affection for her brothers, with more composure than I could have expected) to give her love to Charles and James, (then at Oxford,) and then to her nearest relations, mentioning them by name; and afterwards, to several of her most intimate friends, whose names she also mentioned. After this, she thanked Mr. T. Ives for his kind attentions; and then the friends and servants, who stood round her bed; and sent her thanks to those that were absent. A short time after this, I observed my dear little boy, her youngest brother, hovering about the chamber door, deeply affected at the state of his sister, and apparently wishing to catch a glance of her. I brought him in; and the moment my dear Hannah fixed her eye upon this little brother, whom she exceedingly loved, she exclaimed with the greatest affection, "O my dear Sam, come to me! Kiss me! Be a good boy; and say your prayers. Tit* tenderly loves you. Be

* This was the fond appellation, by which my dear Hannah was generally addressed by all the family. She received it from her first brother, who, before he could distinctly say, Sister, used to call her *Tit*.

sure you be a good boy ! *Tit is going to die!*" This was uttered with such exquisite tenderness, that the dear boy burst into tears, and could not cease from weeping for several hours. And O how did the last sentence " Tit is going to die," — thrill through the bosom of her parent ! The sound seems still in my ears, and causes unutterable yearnings of heart.

Her dear mother (and happy was it for her) was confined to her bed, during the greater part of this awful day, in a distant part of the house, by one of her violent attacks of the head-ache ; and was kept, as much as possible, ignorant of the state of her beloved child ; but hearing, at length, her piercing and convulsive sobs, she hastened to the immediate scene of distress, and was so affected, as to be incapable of restraining her poignant grief. When my daughter had a little revived, and saw the affliction of her tender mother, she affectionately requested her to leave the room. Afterwards, thinking this request might seem unkind, she expressed the deepest concern ;

and said "O, I fear my dearest mother will think, when I requested her to go away, that I did not wish to have her company. O, tell her it was because I grieved to see her distress, that I made the request. If I could seem unkind to such a mother, it would be sad indeed !"

As she was now somewhat relieved from her most painful and distressing symptoms, we wished her, if possible, to get a little rest. After a short time, advancing softly to the side of her pillow, I observed her, with her hands and her eyes lifted up, in earnest prayer : and then she uttered, with extreme emphasis and energy, the following couplet of a hymn, which I had never before heard :—

O ! for a glance of heavenly day,
To melt this stubborn stone away !

Her strength would not allow her to proceed, but she was mentally engaged in prayer for a considerable time ; and I doubt not was making the complaint, and urging the peti-

then contained in the hymn, which I place at the foot of the page.* She soon after repeated a line or two of the hymn, beginning with

There is a fountain filled with blood,
 Drawn from Immanuel's veins ;
 And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
 Lose all their guilty stains.

And, I again directed her attention to the all-atoning sacrifice ; and especially to Jesus Christ, as our great " High Priest, who maketh intercession for us, at the right hand of God." I said — " We have not a High

* O for a glance of heavenly day,
 To melt this stubborn stone away ;
 And thaw, with beams of love divine,
 This heart, this frozen heart of mine.
 The rocks can rend, the earth can quake,
 The seas can roar, the mountains shake ;
 Of feeling, all things shew some sign,
 But this unfeeling heart of mine.
 To hear the sorrows thou hast felt,
 What but an adamant would melt ?
 But I can read each moving line,
 And nothing moves this heart of mine.
 Eternal Spirit ! mighty God !
 Do thou apply the Saviour's blood !
 'Tis his rich blood, and his alone,
 Can move and melt this heart of stone.

Priest, who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one, who having “suffered being tempted, is able to succour them that are tempted.” I added, “do consider, my dear, in what various ways the scriptures address themselves to us, in order to comfort those, who, like you, are in deep distress. God has not only bound himself by promise, but confirmed that assurance by oath, “that, by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.” Her mind appeared to be comforted by these, and similar passages of scripture; and she repeated after me, many of the most striking parts of them; but yet she seemed almost afraid of taking to herself the consolation they offered, lest she should deceive herself. On one occasion, when she had been again saying, Lord Jesus! receive my spirit! I said, “my dear, angels are ready to conduct you to Abraham’s bosom. You know they conducted Lazarus thither.” “O yes! said she,

and I hope they will, mine ! You think then he will not reject me ?” “ *Think !* my dear child, — I am *sure* he will not : it is *impossible* he should ! There never *was* an instance, and never *will* be, whilst the world continues, of a trembling sinner, clinging, as you do, to the Saviour, who was rejected. I could not believe the scriptures, and should have no hope of salvation myself, if I could doubt of the willingness of God to receive those who come unto him through Jesus Christ, as I am sure you do.”

In this, and such like language, I frequently addressed my beloved daughter, in this her day of sore affliction and distress ; and I trust the Holy Spirit, to whom I earnestly looked up for aid, carried the consolation I so anxiously desired, to her heart. She became, towards the close of the day, exceedingly tranquil : the bitterness of death seemed to have passed, and a smile of serenity was diffused over her countenance. Her breathing, however, was still most difficult ; and though the symptoms were less alarming, as threatening instant dissolution ;

yet there was no change in her malady which could afford us the most distant hope of recovery. Her pulse was scarcely perceptible: the fanning was obliged to be incessantly kept up; and one servant relieved another, by rubbing her almost senseless extremities, through the whole day.

In the night, however, to the astonishment of all around her, she began gradually to revive. Her pulse improved; the respiration was less difficult, and she spent a comparatively calm and peaceful night. I did not retire till midnight; and I desired to be called at three in the morning. Never was I more astonished than when, on entering the sick room, my dearest daughter cast her delighted eye upon me; and reached out her hand, and said, with a heavenly smile, "I am better." Mr. Ives of Chertsey, who, as I before mentioned, slept every night under my roof, had been early called up to a distant patient: but, before he went, he discovered that the leg, which, the day before, had lost all sensation, was considerably swollen and inflamed. He immediately applied a

blister to the part, and said, that he had still hopes. The swelling and inflammation continued to increase, till the leg became sensible of pain, on the slightest touch. Dr. Pope visited her early in the morning; and after carefully examining all the symptoms, he pronounced that there were sufficient grounds for hope that all might yet succeed according to our wishes: and after giving his judicious directions, he said, in his kind way, "I hope we shall still keep thee, and raise thee up again to do more good among thy neighbours." The disease seemed now to have been transferred from the vitals, to the extremities; and the Doctor said "our attention must now be chiefly directed to the leg." This information, it is needless to say, filled us all with unspeakable joy: and it would be almost as difficult to conceive the delight of this day, as the awful darkness of that which preceded it. Never shall I forget the angelic countenance of my dear daughter during this happy day. As soon as she saw her mother, she said, "O mother! this is life from the dead:" and seemed at a

loss for language to express her gratitude and thankfulness. I read some of the most beautiful Psalms to her; and particularly that, on the restoration of the Jews from captivity. These words especially were literally fulfilled, and we repeated them over and over again, "Our mouths were filled with laughter; and we were like them that dream." We congratulated each other; we wrote letters to our friends; we thanked God; we knelt around her bed, and poured out her hearts before our merciful and compassionate Father, and intreated him to accomplish what he had begun, and again to raise up the object of our ardent affection to health and happiness. The whole soul of my sweet daughter was filled with admiring love and gratitude. The bitterness of death, and the pangs of separation now seemed to be over: and we thought there was scarcely any thing remaining for us to do, but to "thank God, and take courage." The pulse resumed an almost natural course; the respiration was free; no pain; no head-ache; nothing but the leg seemed to demand our attention:

and though this was exquisitely sensible to the touch, we almost rejoiced in the pain, because it seemed to be the bitter remedy that was to restore the patient to perfect health. During, however, this general exaltation, I felt, at times, a secret misgiving. Surely thought I, God has not thus lifted me up, to cast me down again: but O, if this *should* be the case! I knew there was sufficient cause for thus humbling me in the dust before him. I saw clearly that I had been idolizing my daughter, and that she had entwined herself around the heart of my dear wife and myself, in a way that I had not suspected. This brought me, in private, to the throne of grace, to beg, if possible that my sinful affections might be corrected in some other way, than by the loss of my dear child. Still, I could not get rid of the words — “thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down again.” This feeling was, I trust, mercifully intended to prevent my being exalted above measure; and being thus utterly overwhelmed, when the dreadful stroke was to be inflicted.

My dear daughter now expressed her earnest desire to devote herself entirely to the service of the blessed Saviour. She considered herself as owing not only her creation, and salvation to his boundless mercy, but even a sort of resurrection from the dead; and the language of her grateful heart was, "What shall I render unto God, for all the mercies he has done unto me?" But here she spake with trembling. "I am so afraid, said she, lest these impressions should die away; when I am restored to life and health, and I should forget the vows I made, in the day of my affliction! O pray for me, that I may be kept from falling, and may glorify my heavenly Father." In similar language, she expressed herself to her aunt; and among other things said—"O how differently does every thing appear on a death-bed, to what it did before!" Her aunt read to her several hymns and psalms, and particularly the 116th. and 121st. She begged her to read over again several parts of those psalms, and especially the peculiarly appropriate first nine verses of the 116th.

Having, about noon, a fair opportunity of talking with her a few minutes alone, I asked her some questions on what had passed the previous day : such as, whether she was sensible and collected in the dreadful agony, when her convulsive sobs, pierced the remotest corners of the house ? To which she replied, “ I was as sensible, as I am at this moment : ” and added, “ if such be the act of dying, what must death itself be ? I had often been afraid of *death*, but never before, of *dying*. O what a conflict was that ? ” Indeed it was a conflict ! Well may we pray, in the striking language of our burial service : “ Suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. ” Perhaps not one in ten thousand recovers, as my daughter did, to tell us what these pains are : and unspeakably thankful ought those to be, whose friends pass calmly through the valley of the shadow of death, and who gently fall asleep in Jesus ! I next asked her, why it was, that she viewed her case in so alarming a light ? and why particularly, she had spoken of herself as a hypocrite ? She replied.

that, during the last winter, she had been less in earnest about religion than formerly : that she had gone to the sacrament, without preparation ; that she had paid more attention to dress, than she ought to have done ; and that she had read too much of other books, and too little, her Bible. These were the overwhelming facts, which filled her with such inexpressible fears ; and these were the sins, which brought such dreadful guilt upon her conscience, as to make her case appear to herself to be past hope ! O how differently do actions appear, on the verge of the grave, in the light of eternity, to what they seem to the gay and careless, in the bloom of youth, and in scenes of pleasure ! What self-abasement did this account of my dear daughter's delinquences occasion in myself ! May God Almighty make me more watchful, and more diligent in my proper work ; and preserve me from laying up materials for an awakened conscience to work upon, on a dying pillow ! It seems that what the world think *little* things, will do this. The fact is, her habitual self-examination ; her scriptural

views of the holiness of the divine nature, and her acute sensibility of conscience induced a similar feeling to that of Job, when he said, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee: wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes:" or that of Isaiah, after he had seen "the Lord, sitting upon a throne:" "Woe is me! for I am unclean,—for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts." I did not, however, attempt to comfort her, by assuring her (contrary to the truth) that there was no cause for humiliation, on these accounts; but I again referred her to the same sources of consolation as I had done before; and especially to the unlimited promises of the gospel; and to the intercession of Jesus Christ for his people: telling her, that "if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ, the Righteous." In reference to her agonizing fears of death, I told her that she brought most bitterly to my remembrance my sinful neglect, in not having taken more opportunities of talking with her on the subject of

death; and bringing before her such considerations as were calculated to remove its terrors, and make her familiar with it. In her usual strain of self-abasement, she replied, "O father! it was not you that have been remiss; but it was *my* backwardness to join in conversation with you, when you have entered on that subject. You have often introduced it; and it was discontinued, because I did not freely join in it." The fact, however, really is, that I had not properly, and at seasonable opportunities turned the course of conversation to this topic; nor have I the least recollection that it was ever dropped, when it had commenced, from any indisposition, on her part, to take a share in it. Whatever subject of a religious nature I brought before her, was always attended to with a respect, bordering on reverence; and if she made but few observations on these occasions, it was because she felt it due to her father implicitly to receive his instructions. It was, however, a sad omission; and bitterly did I lament it, when I saw the distress, under which she

laboured from mistaken conceptions of her own state, and what might be the result of her passing out of time into eternity.

In referring to the hymn, which she had repeated with so much feeling and emphasis, Illustrated the expression "Rock of ages, rent for me, Let me hide myself in thee!" by observing that, in the wide and dreary deserts of the East, storms and tempests often suddenly arise, and threaten the traveller with instant destruction. It may easily, therefore, be conceived with what eagerness he looks around him for shelter; and with what haste he betakes himself to the cleft of a rock, if such a refuge should present itself, in his impending danger. Such a security is Jesus Christ, when we are brought to see our danger, and cry in our distress, "what must I do to be saved?" The prophet had this in view, when he said "a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest." She exclaimed, "O how beautiful! how beautiful!" She evidently felt that this was exactly her case; and that she could hope for safety, in the late tempest

of her mind, no where, but in Jesus Christ. I should have been glad to pursue this delightful conversation further; but I knew that I had already gone to the very verge of prudence; and therefore I left her, with a sweet smile of complacency on her countenance; and a heart overflowing with gratitude for the great things which God had done for her. I told her, at the same time, that she must not expect that her malady would leave her, without some slight relapses; and that she must not be alarmed if some of its symptoms returned: but that we all now entertained the best hopes of her recovery.

I cannot help here remarking, that there was something in her countenance, her manner, and even in the tone of her voice, different from what I had ever seen in her before; and, if I may be allowed to say, what others thought as well as myself, there was something in her whole aspect almost angelic. The difficulty she had found in breathing had occasioned her to throw off her cap; her fine auburn hair, now

in disorder, partly covered her face; her countenance was lightened up, with an incessant smile; her languid efforts to assume an air of constant cheerfulness, that we might not suspect there was any thing alarming in her case, added greatly to the effect; and her uninterrupted devotional feelings gave her a peculiar animation, and yet an appearance of gentleness, which were exceedingly affecting. She looked with so much benevolence and tenderness upon all who approached her; and spoke with so much sweetness to every one, who had occasion to address her, that all felt themselves as in the presence of a being, almost more than mortal. On one or two occasions, she felt a propensity to indulge her accustomed playfulness; but she immediately corrected herself, as thinking it unsuitable to her present circumstances; and once, when her aunt Samuel, with a view to make the sick-room as cheerful as possible, said something or other rather jocosely, she whispered in her ear, in the kindest manner, "I am afraid,

my dear aunt, that this is not quite seasonable."

In this frame of mind, she continued the whole day ; but towards the conclusion of it, she was evidently not so well. Her respiration was less free ; and it became necessary again to fan her, and to apply the smelling bottle. But the most formidable symptom was, the almost instantaneous cessation of pain in her leg. She mentioned this to Mr. T. Ives, who immediately manifested his fears by his dejected countenance. She asked him why he looked so serious : he affected to be surprised at her question ; but she instantly perceived that something was wrong ; and, as she afterwards told us, she apprehended that a mortification had taken place, and that she should probably have to undergo an amputation of the limb. With this impression on her mind, it is most extraordinary how she maintained her accustomed cheerfulness ; for though at the first discovery, she appeared somewhat cast down, yet she soon resumed her spirits, and seemed to have for-

gotten that any change for the worse had taken place. The fact is, she was most anxious to prevent her friends feeling any alarm; and when they appeared at all dejected, she assumed a more than ordinary air of ease. She had also a mind, though naturally timid, capable of being wrought up to a very high pitch of courage, when the emergency called for it: and I have not the least doubt that, had her suspicions of a mortification been well grounded; and an operation been deemed necessary, she would have submitted to it, without a murmur; and have still smiled on her agitated friends.

Her medicine was now changed, and a few drops of laudanum, for the first time, were given with each dose. This occasioned her to sleep, at intervals, the greater part of the night; and her pulse evidently improved. On Thursday she continued considerably better. The swelling and inflammation in her leg again increased; and it was thought that, if there were strength enough left in her constitution, the disease might still be thrown off. It was deemed proper to keep her as

quiet as possible during this day, that her little remaining strength might not be uselessly expended, and Mr. Ives, said to her, " I am afraid Miss Jerram, you talked rather too much yesterday : you must be as still as possible to-day, and not talk at all."

" *That*, Mr. Ives, she said, in her playful way, is a hard task ; where there are *ladies*, you know they *must* talk." She was, however, kept quiet ; and very little was said to, or heard from her, except what was connected with her food and medicine. But she still maintained her accustomed cheerfulness ; and gave many intimations that she was no longer harrassed with fears. Those, who were constantly standing by her bed, observed that she was much engaged in mental prayer, from the closing of her hands, and the lifting up of her eyes. Occasional petitions were heard, and they all bespoke the same humility, and entire dependence on God for grace to keep her from falling, if she should again be restored to health.

At no time, since serious danger had been apprehended, were our hopes of recovery

more sanguine than during the greater part of this day. Every thing seemed to proceed as her medical attendants could wish. The pulse were good; the respiration comparatively easy;—the mind tranquil; and she enjoyed some apparently refreshing sleep. She did, indeed, once or twice, on awaking, shew a momentary wandering of mind; but this was ascribed to the effect of laudanum, a small portion of which she took in each of her doses of medicine. On one of these occasions, I was standing by her pillow, when she awoke; and throwing back her hair—she said “it is time to go down.” I said, “whither, my dear?” “O dear, she said, with a sweet smile at her own confusion of mind,—I must recollect myself. I thought it was time to go down to prayers.” Towards the conclusion, however, of this day, the symptoms again became unfavourable: the pain left her leg, and she said it seemed as if it did not belong to her. She thought her extremities were dying, and that the other foot was losing sensation: and I have reason to believe that, from this time,

she gave up the hope of recovery. Her remarks to her aunt, and Mrs. Rowland (a kind neighbour, whom my daughter much esteemed, and who was very much with her during the last few days of her illness), plainly shewed that she apprehended death was very near. She put out her hands and pointed to the nails, as indicating to her mind, that her dissolution was now commencing: and mentioned other things, which seemed to put the matter, in her opinion, beyond all reasonable doubt. I allude to these minute circumstances merely for the purpose of shewing, that her future tranquillity and undisturbed repose of mind, did not arise from the flattering hope of ultimate recovery;—but from a settled confidence in the safety of her case, and a firm hope of a happy immortality.

In the evening of this day, it was thought necessary, from the length of time in which she had lain in one position, to remove her to another part of the bed, and to adjust the clothes around her: and in making this attempt, her extreme weakness became so appa-

rent, as to leave no one in doubt what must very soon be the issue. It required two persons nearly two hours to accomplish a small portion of the intended arrangement. The slightest motion affected her with the sensation of dying. She frequently whispered, (for now she could only whisper, and that, in broken sentences) "Never mind—it is of no consequence: I am going! now I am going!" I saw her after this effort; but did not speak, as her strength was evidently exhausted. There continued, however, the same cheerful smile on her countenance; and she afterwards took some interest in and gave some directions about the arrangements that were necessary for the night. A slight cough came on at times, and she evidently had not sufficient strength to expectorate. During the night, she dozed a little, but got no refreshing rest. Every thing was now carried on by signs, or the gentlest whisper. It was necessary almost incessantly to use the fan, to keep breath in her. But not a single indication of impatience or uneasiness appeared. She was composed and placid; and

evidently had her mind at rest. She said to her mother, who took her turn, in waiting at the bed of her dying daughter at three o'clock on Friday morning, "I am not afraid;" and after a pause, she added, "O mother! I have many things, I wish to say. I long to talk to you: but I have not strength." Soon after, she said, "I have no pain,—none whatever; but I feel an indescribable languor, and sinking." Her mother, perceiving the effort which a single word required, requested her to make a sign, by lifting up her hand, when she had occasion for any thing; but this seemed to her, even in her state of complete exhaustion, to be inconsistent with that respect which she owed to her affectionate parent, and she exclaimed, "O mother, that would be shocking."

When I approached her bed, about seven in the morning, she fixed her eyes upon me, and with a heavenly smile on her countenance, she said, "I am not alarmed!" Sweet creature! But how was thy afflicted parent alarmed! He saw thee sinking gradually into the arms of death; and his soul

melted within him. He withdrew, and laid his case before him, " who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities ; " and intreated that, since " the cup might not pass from him," he might at length be able to say, " not my will, but thine be done."

Her stomach now, for the first time, began to loathe her medicine, and she was with difficulty persuaded to take it. Her mother, thinking it of the last importance that this should not be discontinued, and that Mr. Ives would more easily prevail upon her to take it than she could, called him out of the adjoining chamber, where, as usual, he was sleeping in his clothes. On his appearance, my beloved daughter was much grieved that her reluctance to take the medicine, should have caused his rest to be disturbed, and immediately took it, though it evidently caused great nausea. During this morning, I went several times into the sick room, but placed myself, as much as possible, out of her view, lest the sight of my agitated countenance should disturb her repose. She continued to doze a considerable part of the

morning ; but took, at intervals, small quantities of egg, mixed in brandy. I left her room about two o'clock, and after being absent a short time, sent a message to request that, if my name should be mentioned, I might be immediately informed. Soon after I retired, she asked one of her kind attendants, what o'clock it was ; and was answered, " twenty minutes past two." She directly repeated,—looking at her aunt, " twenty minutes past two !" In a short time after, she said, " it is now half past ; it will soon be three. Where is my father ? He has not been lately in the room. And my dear mother ?" I was immediately sent for. On approaching her bed-side, she asked, " Is the Doctor coming ?" I replied, I hoped he would soon be here. I then perceived that her dissolution was at hand. A cold sweat bedewed her countenance : her pulse was scarcely perceptible, and every thing indicated that death was silently performing his last office. Her dear aunt was constantly employed in sponging her forehead with an aromatic ; and the grateful

creature kept testifying by signs, her thankfulness for the refreshment it afforded her. I could no longer restrain my agonized feelings; and I fear I must have disturbed her repose, at a moment, when it was peculiarly desirable that all should be still and correspondent with the awful event, which was taking place. I endeavoured, however, with as much self-command as I was master of, to direct her mind to the Saviour. I reminded her of the brazen serpent. I said she was just within reach of the haven of rest. I told her that angels were waiting to conduct her soul to Abraham's bosom; that, in a few moments, she would be beyond the reach of pain, and sorrow, and danger; and that she was about to be welcomed into the realms of everlasting light and blessedness. She then just articulated, "some egg." I presented it to her, and as she was receiving it, I said, "take this, in remembrance that Christ died for thee:" and I have no doubt she "fed on him, in her heart by faith." I still exhorted her to put her whole confidence in the atoning sacrifice; and assured

her that all would soon be well. She then made an effort to speak; her aunt applied her ear to her lips, and received her last words, "I have no other hope!" In about three minutes, she breathed her last, without a struggle or a sigh; and passed from this vale of tears to stand "before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and she shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on her, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed her, and shall lead her unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from her eyes." I approached her pillow, and kissed her beloved cheek, still moist with the dews of death, and closed her eyes! Sweet child! How beautiful was thy countenance, even after the spirit had fled! It seemed to reflect a heavenly peace, and to assure us, "all is well!" As her face had always beamed with delight upon us whilst living, so also in death, it retained its accustomed smile: and as long as it was proper to gaze on her mortal remains, we were saluted with as

sweet an aspect as death, deprived of his sting, ever left on the triumphant Christian. It seemed to say, "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory!"

She died exactly at half past three o'clock, on Friday, the ninth of May, after she had just entered on her twenty-fourth year. As my dear wife, and two of the highly valued friends of my beloved daughter, had joined with me, in earnest prayer, about half an hour before her death, that the Father of mercies would graciously support her in her last conflict; and grant her an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom,—a prayer which I doubt not he mercifully answered,—so we again retired, and humbly implored him to reconcile our minds to this sore visitation; to bow our wills in submission to his; to be with us in this furnace of affliction; to enable us to glorify him in the fire, and to sanctify the dispensation to our everlasting welfare. These prayers have, I trust also been answered: for though the fountain of our tears seems inexhaustible; yet we have not been suffered to "charge

God foolishly ;” nor to contest with him his right to dispose both of us and ours, “ as seemeth best to his godly wisdom.” “ All, we are sure, is well,” with our dear daughter : and though our minds, in fond recollections, are constantly recurring to the beloved object ; and the current of our affections, which have been flowing with a strong and constantly increasing tide, in this channel, for three and twenty years, has hitherto refused to take any other direction, yet ours is not a sorrow, which has no hope ; and it is not, I humbly trust, mixed with any portion of fretfulness and repining. Whether the wound will be ever completely healed, on this side the grave, I cannot as yet see : certain it is, that though I write this part of the memoir at the distance of five months from the departure of my beloved child, it still appears as far from being closed as it was at first ; and we feel an instinctive propensity to get alone, and indulge our sorrows : yet our grief is not without its *present* advantages ; and I trust, it will “ yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness.” Our minds naturally turn to the

happy abode of our beloved child : and we acquire somewhat of the habit of contemplating the employments, as well as felicity, of that blessed kingdom. Nor can we reflect on our dear daughter deriving her constant and transcendent joys from the overflowing kindness of the adorable Saviour, without feeling our hearts more strongly united to him than ever ; and desiring to know more of him, that we may enjoy still richer communications of his grace. It affords us a high gratification to think that we shall soon be transformed “ into his likeness, for we shall see him as he is ;” and that “ our vile body will, ere long, be fashioned like unto his glorious body ;” and we shall “ be for ever with the Lord.” In the mean time, it is no small honour and happiness to have trained up our daughter, as “ a tree of righteousness, the planting of the Lord.” She was, it is true, taken from us, when full of bloom, and promising the choicest fruit ; but then she has been safely transferred from an ungenial clime, where she would have been exposed to many a chilling blast, and deadly blight,

to the paradise of God, where she is sheltered from every storm, and will blossom in unfading beauty, and bring forth fruit, through everlasting ages. If she has been cut off in the midst of her days, yet she has reached the resting place of the saints, without bearing much of the heat and burden of the day, and were the choice now given her, she would not exchange her present society, employments, joys, and prospects, for the cares and sorrows, and dangers, and mortal conflict, which are inseparably connected with the most favoured condition of human life. As we "shall go to her, but she will not return to us," be it our concern daily to ascend to that happy world in affection, and to become "meet to be partakers with the saints in light."

A few hours after the death of our daughter, we opened the pocket Bible, which had been her constant companion; and found, on a blank leaf, the following admonitory and most seasonable lines, which she seemed to have recently copied with a pencil.

cheerful spirit
 With peaceful mind, thy path of duty run ;
 God nothing does, nor suffers to be done,
 But what thou wouldst thyself, couldst thou but see,
 Through all events of things, as well as He.

I need not mention in what way they affected us. Our beloved daughter seemed to speak to us from her exalted state of glory and felicity ; and with a capacity vastly enlarged, and views extending far beyond those of mortals, to assure us that every thing had taken place, just as she could have wished : and that we also, as soon as we could see all the links in the chain which connects earth and heaven, should fully approve of this dispensation of Divine Providence : in the mean time, that we had appropriate duties to perform, and ought not to suffer grief to unfit us for their due discharge. The lesson, I trust, has not been lost upon us.

When the tidings of our affliction reached our dear friend, Mr. Wilson, he was entering on his Sunday's duty at St. John's : and so greatly was he affected by it, that after his sermon he announced it to his congregation, and gave notice of his intention to improve

the event, by preaching a sermon to the young, on the following Sunday evening. In the mean time,—knowing his great affection and esteem for my dear child, and the deep interest he would take in our grievous affliction, I wrote to request him to address my own congregation, on the day of her interment. This task, painful as it was, he most kindly undertook: but when he ascended the pulpit, so much were his feelings overcome, that it was long before he could pronounce his text, and apprehensions were entertained that he would not be able to proceed. With much difficulty, he at length commenced; but at every attempt to speak of my beloved child, his voice was stifled, and he ultimately found it necessary to say that he could not approach that subject. The sympathy, I need not add, was general; and probably a stronger impression was thus made on the audience than if he had been able, with his usual energy, to say all that his full heart would have dictated. His discourse was founded on the words of David to Jonathan, in the 1st of Samuel

xx. 3. “ Truly, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.”

On the Sunday following, I understand, he addressed a very crowded audience at St. John's, on the same words; and there, having less excitement from peculiar circumstances and surrounding objects, he was not prevented by his affectionate feelings, from urging, with great effect, the importance of early religion, and an habitual preparation for the approach of death. It affords me no common gratification to record these proofs of my dear friend's tender regard for my beloved daughter, not only as they shew the opinion entertained of her, by one who was able to estimate her character;—but especially as they are connected with the persuasion that many young persons have been profited by her death. It seems to be one of the designs of Divine Providence, in suddenly and prematurely removing individuals from this world, to arrest the attention of the living: and when any persons, who are likely to engage a more than common share

of genuine interest, either by the time and manner of their death, or by their talent and position in life, are "cut off from the land of the living," it seems to lay an obligation on those who "watch for souls," to make the suitable improvement of the dispensation. And it is with this object chiefly in view, that I have been offering this tribute of parental affection to my only and beloved daughter. I found it peculiarly gratifying to my present state of mind, to refresh my recollection with the principal occurrences of the life and death of a daughter so exceedingly dear to me; and to record them in such a way, as to afford an opportunity of renewing the impression, when from distance of time, and later engagements, it might be expected that her beloved image would become less vivid and familiar. Nor will I deny that it has afforded me a refined pleasure to have such an opportunity of procuring, for the memory of my child, a place in the esteem and affection of "the excellent of the earth." But I could not have reconciled it with my sense of duty, to make these

the ultimate, or even the principal object of this little work. I have constantly had before me a more appropriate and important aim. I have wished to engraft instruction on the various incidents, which I have had to record; and to take advantage of the sympathy, which I am persuaded my narrative will have excited, especially among the young, by turning the affections into a right channel, and directing the mind to the noblest pursuits: and happy, indeed, shall I think myself if this tribute of affection to my dear Hannah, become the vehicle of spiritual blessings to a single individual. I can conceive of nothing that would be more gratifying than a result like this, to the feelings of the subject of this memoir, if we may be allowed to suppose, — and I do not see why we may not, — that the “spirits of the just” take an interest in the affairs of this lower world. She would be content, I am persuaded, again to pass through the dreadful terrors of the valley of death, could she be made the instrument of essential and spiritual benefit to one immor-

tal being. It was the first wish of her heart, while living, to do good; and her countenance would have beamed with inexpressible delight, when lying on the bed of death, could she have anticipated that the narration of the fears through which she had passed, would be the means of awakening the attention of others to prepare for the awful conflict. This subject is of such importance that I trust I may be excused, if I still dwell upon it; and avail myself of this narrative to make a serious and affectionate ADDRESS TO THE YOUNG, on the importance of immediately taking a decided part in an affair of everlasting moment.

Suffer me then to remind you, that *the salvation of your soul is, of all concerns in the world, the most important.* WHAT IS THE SOUL? *What are its capacities?—What its destiny?—*WHAT IS THE BODY?—*What is the measure of its enjoyments?—and what its duration?* Each of these questions is pregnant with reflections of overwhelming magnitude, Stretch imagination to its ut-

most limit, and it will fall infinitely short of the reality. *Compare these component parts of man with each other.* The one allies you with "the spirits of the just,"—with angels, with God himself: the other, you have in common with "the beasts that perish." The *soul* is capable of unlimited attainments in knowledge; is susceptible of the most exquisite pleasures; and is a fit associate for the most exalted and spiritual beings. What has the *body*,—earthly, sensual and grovelling,—to put in competition with these? Follow the *soul* into its residence in the future world. Connect it with everlasting ages: view it, as surviving "the wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds," and as measuring its duration with the eternal God! Look at the *body* in the dark and dismal receptacles of the dead, saying "to corruption, Thou art my father: and to the worm, Thou art my mother and my sister!" *Weigh the two in a balance;* and connect with them earth and heaven. Put "all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life," in one scale;

and a crown of glory; and an imperishable inheritance; and an everlasting kingdom; and joys that are eternal; and employments that engage and ennoble angels; and the full vision of the glorified Saviour, and the fruition of God, into the other: and you will have a grain of dust in one, and the universe in the other.

Know'st thou the importance of a soul immortal?
Behold this midnight glory! worlds on worlds!
Amazing pomp! redouble this amaze:
Ten thousand add; add twice ten thousand more;
Then weigh the whole: one soul outweighs them all;
And calls th' astonishing magnificence
Of unintelligent creation, poor.

Now permit me, my young friend, seriously to ask you, to which of these have you hitherto paid your chief attention. Which do you first think of, when you awake in the morning? Which excites the greater anxiety through the day? and which makes the last impression, when you repose at night, upon your pillow? Oh! to what sad reflections would questions like these give birth! Yet

still, let me intreat you to weigh them. They may, at first, alarm you : but if they induce you, as I trust they will, to form a due estimate of the soul, they may lead to the commencement of a course of conduct, which will issue in your happiness, both in the present life, and in the world to come.

When your mind is suitably impressed with the value of the treasure you possess, your next concern will be *to secure it from danger*. The merchant, who carries about with him precious gems, exercises an almost sleepless vigilance that he may not lose them : and if, hitherto, you have been fearless of danger, your repose must have arisen from your ignorance that you also possess a “ pearl of great price ;” and may, in a moment, be deprived of it. Indulge no longer in this thoughtless security. You are, whether you are aware of it or not, on the precipice of ruin. “ Sin has brought death into the world,” and “ all are sinners.” The sentence of condemnation is already pronounced, and may, immediately, be executed. Is it not then high time to awake out of sleep ?

Should you not enquire, " what must I do, to be saved ? " In what way may the awful sentence be reversed ? How may I escape " the wrath to come ? " Is there any hope ? These, and similar questions, will prepare you to receive " the glad tidings of salvation," and cause you to rejoice in Christ Jesus the Saviour.

It is to this compassionate friend of sinners that I would now affectionately bespeak your attention. Scriptural views of his person and office, reliance upon his merits, and a conformity to his will, are of the last importance, the very turning point of salvation. You have seen, in the case of my dear daughter, that nothing could calm her agitated mind, but considerations drawn from the cross of Christ. This was her sheet-anchor ; and when she was enabled to avail herself of this, her fears subsided, the bitterness of death passed away, and she contemplated the awful prospect which opened before her, with composure. You will also doubtless have observed that Jesus Christ is the sum and substance of the holy scriptures. He

was the subject of the first promise, and the only stay and comfort of our desponding parents, when driven out of paradise. The patriarchs foresaw his day, and were glad; and considered him as "the seed in whom all nations should be blessed." He was typified by sacrifices, foretold by prophets, and sung by poets. He is the grand subject which the sacred historians had ever uppermost in their minds, when narrating the events which had taken place since the creation of the world, down to his birth. There were, at different periods, great kingdoms, mighty conquerors, and important revolutions; but they were of no other importance, in the estimate of writers under the influence of divine inspiration, than as they had a reference to the kingdom of Christ: and they are taken up, in the course of the narrative, and laid aside, just as they happened to bear on the one great object of divine revelation.

In the *New Testament* every thing bears testimony to the fact of "the decree having gone forth that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is

Lord, to the glory of God the Father." His stupendous condescension, in taking upon him human nature, was announced by angels; his mission was established by proofs of his omnipotence in suspending and changing the laws of nature. He gave eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, ears to the deaf, and life to the dead. He stilled the raging of the sea, and triumphed over the powers of darkness. Creation sympathized in his sufferings and death, for the sun was darkened, and the earth shook, and the dead were raised. His ascension to the right hand of the Majesty on high was witnessed by men and angels; and now he has taken possession of the throne of his glory, he presides over the affairs both of earth and heaven; and sitting as "the Lamb in the midst of the throne," he receives the homage of the vast multitude, who "have washed their robes, and made them white in his blood." In the acts and letters of the apostles, every thing is calculated to raise our admiration of his character, and to shew us the unspeakable importance of embracing his gospel. In his person, he



is said to be precious; in his grace, his riches are unsearchable. To the Christian, he is "All and in all;" he is "made of God to him, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption." In having Christ, he possesses the riches of both worlds, for "all things, says the apostle, are yours; for ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's." He is their guide and comforter; their sun and shield; their friend and advocate. He supports them under their earthly conflicts; gives them the victory over death; and "administers unto them abundantly an entrance into his everlasting kingdom." He will finally "judge the world in righteousness," and fix the eternal destinies of the assembled millions, who have appeared on the earth from the creation of Adam to the last of his descendants. In short, he is "the Alpha and Omega:" he has "the keys of death and of hell:" he carries, on "his vesture, and his thigh his name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords;" and the whole world must either touch his sceptre and live, or be


broken to pieces by the rod of his vengeance.

Now, my young friend, why have I here given this outline of the character and glory of the blessed Redeemer? With a view to shew you that he is no secondary object: and cannot be served with a subordinate homage. He has the first place in heaven and earth; and he must have the predominance in your heart and affections. He is the fountain of life, and you must derive your spiritual existence from him. He has purchased pardon of sin, by his death upon the cross, and you can obtain reconciliation only through his blood. He dispenses grace and salvation to the humble and penitent; and you can neither be holy nor happy, but by an union with him. If you make a mistake here, the error will be fatal; "for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Bear in mind then, that coming to Christ, is the first step to Christianity; abiding in him, is its highest perfection; and dwelling in his pre-

sence for ever is the consummation of all our hopes, and the fruition of all possible blessedness. Is this exhibition of the Saviour consistent with scriptural documents? You must acknowledge it is. Does it correspond with what you see in the majority of those who profess his religion? or what you hear respecting him, in their casual conversation on the subject? If not; what is the practical lesson? Obviously, that you must "come out from amongst them." However painful singularity may be, you must submit to the cross, unless you are determined to relinquish the crown. You know who has said, "wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; while strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Besides, are you not struck with *the extreme danger of making light of that, which God has stamped with the seal of heaven, as being the only thing in the world of real importance?* Reflect for one moment on these facts. The Author of the

gospel is no less a personage than the Son of God. He was "the brightness of his Father's glory, and the express image of his person." "He created all things that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible; whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him." This divine personage "laid aside the glory which he had with the Father; made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and suffered death upon the cross." He broke the power of death and the grave, and ascended in triumph into heaven; and there he holds the reins of government, as the head and representative of his church. He has sent the Holy Spirit, the third person in the divine Trinity, to enlighten, sanctify, and bless the world. He has established in heaven itself an order of things, directly subservient to the same grand object of saving the ruined race of man. Angels are appointed as ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation, and rejoice when a sinner repenteth: they desire to look into these mysteries of



redemption, and view them as displaying the wisdom and grace of the Father in a light in which they had never before seen them ; and to an extent which baffles their vast conceptions : and the whole system of the universe is regulated in reference to the grand scheme of glorifying God by this method of saving man :—and now let me ask you, whether there is no danger in “ neglecting this great salvation ;” in throwing back all these favours ; and in pouring contempt on this display of divine wisdom and power and goodness ? And when you admit this danger ; next consider the *greatness* of it. What, let me ask you, is comprehended in the loss of heaven, and the torments of hell ? Endeavour to measure the distance between these different abodes, and to learn what is going on in that prison house, and in those eternal mansions. But here imagination fails ; for who can conceive what is transacting within those dark regions, on the entrance of which is written NO HOPE ! or what mind can grasp all that is comprehended in “ AN EXCEEDING AND AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY ?”

And yet every thing contained in these opposite extremes, and all that lies between them, is involved in your receiving or rejecting the gospel. Pause here for a moment. Before you consent to hazard the loss of heaven, and incur the dreadful penalty of sin,—I beseech you fall upon your knees, and beg of God to enable you to make a decision, of which you will not have fruitlessly to repent through everlasting ages !

Yes — you must come to a decision. “ You cannot serve God and mammon.” It is impossible to walk in the way of life and of death at the same time. Which then of these paths is it your intention to pursue? You say, and say rightly, the question admits but of one answer; for “ who can dwell with everlasting burnings, where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched?” But I ask you again, *when* is it your intention to commence the course which wisdom and conscience point out as the only safe one?—I know what is passing in your mind: you say “ very soon; but not yet: a more convenient season is at hand, and then.” —



and then, what? Why you will have lost the present impression:—your heart will be “hardened through the deceitfulness of sin:” you will be like the multitude around you, who formerly wailed, it is probable as you now do, for a more suitable opportunity, and who have fallen asleep on the precipice of destruction, never to be awakened, it is to be feared, till they are precipitated into the gulph below! O, my young friend, I beseech you hesitate not a moment. Heaven and hell hang on the breath you are now drawing! Put off the affair till to-morrow, and the soul may be irretrievably lost! Think on the untimely summons of my dear daughter. Had she, like you, postponed the great affair, where had she been *now*? “*To-day* then, if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart. *Now* is the accepted time; *now* is the day of salvation.”

But why should you *wish* to postpone the affair? What is there so forbidding in the aspect of true piety? Are you afraid of having your sins forgiven? Do you dread being reconciled to God? Will it give you pain to have a mind at ease? Will it

destroy your freedom to be rescued from the powers of darkness, and brought into the liberty of the children of God? Are the burdens of life so light, that you are unwilling to cast them on the Saviour? Is the journey through this wilderness so safe and pleasant, that you need neither a guide nor protector? Is the passage through the valley of the shadow of death so cheerful, that you can dispense with the presence and assistance of him, who has the power over death, and the keys of everlasting life? You think then, it should seem, that well-regulated passions; the purest and most refined emotions of the soul,—the pursuit of the most noble and glorious objects,—the enjoyment of the most rational pleasures,—the hope of the most transcendent felicity,—the friendship of the best of beings,—the society of the most exalted intelligencies,—the inheritance of imperishable riches,—the wearing of an unfading crown,—the possession of eternal mansions,—and an everlasting duration of consummate happiness, are evils which it is wise to put off till the latest possible point of

safety : and that it is a blessing pre-eminently to be desired to wear the yoke of sin ; to perform the drudgery of Satan ;—to be a slave to passion ; — to cherish a tormenting conscience ;—to defeat the purposes of creation ;—to trample on the blessings of salvation ;—to spurn the favours of God ;—to be a blank or a blot in the universe, to the very extremity of divine forbearance ! May God, in his compassion, shew you your infatuation ! Can the thought of procrastination, even for a single moment, come from any other source than the prince of darkness ?—O, my young friend—I beseech you, open your eyes to your real state and condition ! Suffer the enemy no longer to darken your understanding, and to deceive you with shadows. Be persuaded that an immediate decision to devote yourself, body and soul and spirit, to the service of God, in the gospel of his Son, is as essential to your present pleasure, as to your future welfare ;—that “ godliness is profitable for all things, having the promise of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come.” Wisdom and religion

are one and the same thing : and “ the ways of wisdom are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.” O then, come without a moment’s further delay to him, who waits to be gracious, and who will be a never failing source of the richest enjoyments. Let him be the centre to which your best affections may continually tend ; and moving around him, like the planetary orbs about the grand luminary which diffuses his light and heat on every portion of matter that feels his influences and pays him homage, he will guide you safely in your course, and beautify and fructify you by his rays and genial warmth.

I most affectionately therefore intreat you, in conclusion, to seek, from the present moment, the blessings of salvation. Detach yourself from a vain world, and frivolous pursuits. Seek divine assistance, by continual and earnest prayer. Read the word of God, daily, and with great attention ; and treasure its contents in your memory. Make the excellent of the earth your companions ; and consult the wise and pious in all your spiri-

tual difficulties. Set out, and do it immediately, in the way to the kingdom of God. Never look back; but "press onward towards the mark, for the prize of your high calling of God in Christ Jesus:" and soon shall you "receive a crown of glory, that fadeth not away." And should you, like my dearest child, be cut off in the midst of your days, in the bloom of beauty, and in the vigour of life, like her, you will be received into Abraham's bosom and everlasting habitations; and your parents and friends, like those of my beloved daughter, will mourn indeed over your grave, with a sorrow that is lavish of its tears, and with yearnings of heart that are unutterable; but not with a sorrow that is destitute of hope; nor will they sink with dismay under the dreadful foreboding, that the separation will be eternal.



THE END.

